



Gospel | Perhaps Today! | [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#)

Mark Schatzman

We're moving swiftly toward the end of our study of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian church. Tonight we turn our attention to a major theme in the letter: The return of Jesus. (NOTE: It's also a major theme in Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians, so it's obviously something that he felt was very important for them to understand.)

Read [1 Thessalonians chapters 4 and 5](#).

The return of Jesus is clearly the major issue at hand in the second half of chapter 4 and the first half of chapter 5. **In your own words, how would you summarize Paul's message to the Thessalonians about Jesus' return?**

Quickly flip back through the letter and see if you can find other places where Paul mentions the return of Jesus (HINT: it comes up in every chapter.)

Why would the return of Jesus be an issue of such importance to Paul?

Why is the return of Jesus of any importance to us today?

There is much debate over the interpretation of the way Paul describes Jesus' return. Some see a description of Jesus calling home His faithful followers to be with Him in Heaven. Others see a picture of His followers welcoming back the true King as He begins redeeming and restoring His broken creation. But whatever the interpretation might be, Paul's purpose is clear. Both sections where Paul writes about Jesus' return conclude with these words, "Therefore encourage one another..."

How would the return of Jesus be an encouragement to the Thessalonian church?

How is it meant to be an encouragement to us today?

What would it look like for your group to encourage one another in this way on a consistent basis?

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Sunday

[1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#)

Monday

[1 Timothy 1:1-20;](#)
[Psalm 144:1-6; Proverbs 30:23-25](#)

Tuesday

[1 Timothy 2:1-15;](#)
[Psalm 144:7-15; Proverbs 30:26-29](#)

Wednesday

[1 Timothy 3:1-16;](#)
[Psalm 145:1-5; Proverbs 30:30-33](#)

Thursday

[1 Timothy 4:1-16;](#)
[Psalm 145:6-13; Proverbs 31:1-3](#)

Friday

[1 Timothy 5:1-6:2;](#)
[Psalm 145:14-21; Proverbs 31:4-6](#)

Saturday

[1 Timothy 6:3-21;](#)
[Psalm 146; Proverbs 31:7-9](#)