

Week 27  
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### **Transforming Daily**

***“ . . . from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth . . . ”***  
*1 Thessalonians 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:13-18, 5:23*

First Thessalonians is well known for its eschatological reference in the last part of chapter four and the first part of chapter five where many scholars believe Paul is referring to a pretribulation rapture of the church. While it is true that eschatological references are throughout First Thessalonians, not all scholars agree that chapters four and five refer to a pretribulation rapture. The emphasis on eschatology in First Thessalonians is on how the believer should live in light of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The believers of Thessalonica missed Paul's point and reacted to Paul's message as if the return of Christ was immediate. However, while Christ's return is imminent, Paul was not saying that it was immediate (see Second Thessalonians). What Paul's message was in First Thessalonians was for the believer to be steadfast, dedicated, patient, committed, obedient, and evangelistic in light of the imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He wanted them to remain fervent, diligent, faithful, and prepared concerning their life and ministry to their family, friends and fellow citizens.

The message is still the same now 2000 years later. The church awaits the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is safe and logical to say that His return is closer than it ever has been before. In light of that truth, the 21<sup>st</sup> century believer is to remain fervent in prayer, diligent in study, faithful in service and prepared to do ministry and missions.

Does the message of First Thessalonians resonate with your spiritual development? Can you relate with Paul's admonition of and instruction to the church at Thessalonica? Are you excited about the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you told anyone lately? Is the testimony of others concerning your witness that from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth?