

**Remnant Life Church**  
July 26, 2015  
The Signs of the Times: What About Me?  
**I Thessalonians 4:13-18**

Last Week:

We looked at 4 signs of the times that the time of Jesus return is drawing close

- **First** – the return and emergence of Israel as a nation (1948)
- **Second** – the rise of militant Islam around the globe and specifically against Israel
- **Third** – the on-going development of the one-world global community (2 Thess 2)
- **Fourth** – the intensified spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

When the end times are discussed in most churches the questions are fairly similar:

1. When will all of this happen?
2. What happens to the church during all of this? (pre-trib)
3. What will happen to me?

In **I Thessalonians 4** Paul addresses some of these questions with one goal in mind: encouragement

**The most important question:** How can I know for sure that I will be among those who will be called up to heaven?

1. Have you accepted Jesus Christ into your life as the Lord and Savior of your life?
2. That specific act alone is what ensures us of our eternity
3. The judgment for everyone will be based on three things:
  - a. The truth we knew
  - b. The opportunities we were given to know the truth
  - c. What we did with those opportunities
4. It is not how nice we are; how often we come to church; how much we give; or even how often we read the Bible
5. **John 14:6** - *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

The people of the Thessalonian church had their own questions:

1. What about those who had already died? What will happen to them? (4:13)
2. How do we know what you are saying to be true? (4:15)
3. What will happen to us? (4:17)

**QUESTION** – As we wait how should we live? (Waiting well...)

1. We should be listening for the Holy Spirit when He speaks into our lives
  - a. **Acts 8:26-40** - **READ**
  - b. Phillip was a man who listened and heard the voice of the Holy Spirit

- c. NOTE: just as Phillip was “snatched away” so too will every Christian when Jesus returns for His church
  - d. How important is it to be listening to the Holy Spirit?
    - i. **Prov 28:9** - *If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction, even their prayers are detestable.*
  - e. It is not enough to simply hear but we must obey as well
    - i. Phillip first heard (**vv 26, 29**)
    - ii. Then he obeyed (**vv 27, 30**)
    - iii. **Psalm 32:8** - *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*
  - f. “The Look” of a parent/wife conveys a connection that does not require an explanation
2. We should be loving the people around us – especially those who do not know the Lord
- a. At the time that Phillip is told to go he is leading a powerful time of teaching and revival in Samaria
  - b. Yet he leaves it all for one man
  - NOTE: God did not tell him where only to go (Like Abraham in **Genesis 12** and the priests at the river Jordan in **Joshua 4**)
  - c. The first recorded salvation in the NT outside of Jerusalem is an African (Ethiopia is another words used for the region of Cush and not only the specific country of NE Africa of today)
  - d. A eunuch considered by the Jews to be unclean and not allowed in the temple yet he had gone to Jerusalem to worship (**v 27**)
  - e. **The Point:** God’s Word and His love is for EVERYONE
    - i. **Acts 8** – the conversion of a son of Ham (Egyptians – the eunuch)
    - ii. **Acts 9** – the conversion of a son of Shem (Saul to Paul)
    - iii. **Acts 10** – the obedience of a son of Japheth (the Roman centurion, Cornelius)
    - iv. These three represent the three divisions of humanity after the flood – God’s love is for everyone!
  - f. NOTE: Phillip did not need to be told what to do only to go – he knew to talk about Jesus
3. We need to know God’s Word
- a. Now is the time to begin reading your Bible again
  - b. If you already do, ask God to begin revealing more of His Word to your heart
    - i. Not just more head knowledge
    - ii. But how to apply what I am reading to my life
  - c. **The power of God’s Word is realized when we release it from our hearts and share it with others.**
  - d. **Psalms 119:105** - *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*
  - e. **Heb 4:12** - *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*
  - f. **Eph 6:17** - *...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

- The coming of Jesus is eminent!
- We, His church, should be looking forward to that time with great anticipation
  - Not in fear
  - Like Phillip we will be snatched away into His all-encompassing love
- Until then stay vigilant, stay busy in the things of God (loving the people around us, reading His Word), and stay focused on living your life to His glory
- Above all – DON'T BE AFRAID – BE ENCOURAGED!