

# Compelling Love

Paul's First Letter to Thessalonica

22 November, 2009 | Flushing Community Church

## How can this series be maximized for me? Consider ...

- 1) reading 1 Thessalonians repeatedly
- 2) bring your Bibles to church for note taking and further study
- 3) commit to memory the key verse from each week
- 4) utilize the "Digging Deeper" area on the back of this insert

## What is your favorite "apocalyptic" movie of all time?

What about it makes it so compelling?

## Write some notes from our text today ...

[1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 5:24]

## What are we supposed to be doing while we wait for the return of Jesus?

## Encounter these verses today:

*circle words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side*

### 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 5:24 NIV

<sup>13</sup>Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup>According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage each other with these words.

<sup>1</sup>Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup>for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

<sup>4</sup>But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup>For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup>He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. <sup>12</sup>Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. <sup>13</sup>Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. <sup>14</sup>And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup>Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

<sup>16</sup>**Be joyful always;** <sup>17</sup>**pray continually;** <sup>18</sup>**give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

<sup>19</sup>Do not put out the Spirit's fire; <sup>20</sup>do not treat prophecies with contempt. <sup>21</sup>Test everything. Hold on to the good. <sup>22</sup>Avoid every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

### Digging Deeper this week ...

*If you would like to take today's teaching to the next level, then start digging!*

*Take the following steps ...*

- 1) Take some time this week to commit to memory 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Read it in other translations and find the one that fits you.
- 2) Become more aware of opportunities in your life when you could share about the return of Jesus. How can you use this to encourage others and break through the fear others feel?
- 3) Read James 5:7-8; 1 Peter 1:7, 13; 2 Peter 3:3:1-14; 1 John 2:28-3:2. How do these verses help you prepare for the coming of the Lord? How should you live?

