

Sermon Starter – The Early Church, Our Church: Thessalonica

Acts 17:1-9, 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10, 2:1-8, 4:9, 5:9-10

As we see in Acts 17:5-9, the Christians in Thessalonica suffer persecution for their faith immediately. In fact, Paul is so worried about them that, after he leaves Thessalonica, he sends Timothy to check on the Thessalonian believers.

Paul's letter is one of encouragement to this little suffering community. Jesus is coming to rescue believers! Paul believes that Jesus' return is imminent. The language Paul uses in 1 Thessalonians 1:10 speaks of Jesus as an official emissary entering a territory.

What if Jesus' rescue is one of setting things right "on Earth as it is in heaven"? What if our task in the meantime is to convey Christ's rescuing love to our hurting world? God's complete rescue has not yet occurred. How will we wait in hope?

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