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The last chapter of this first letter to the Church in Thessaloniki is largely composed of three sections:

1) Final Days

1 Thessalonians 5:10 (NLT) - <sup>10</sup> Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever .

2) Final Advice

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT) - <sup>18</sup> Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

3) Final Greetings

1Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NLT) - <sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. <sup>24</sup> God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

## STUDY GUIDE

1. Can you recall an instance when you received some completely unexpected news?

- \* What made that news so surprising?
- \* What was your reaction?
- \* What was the reaction of those around you?

2. The return of Jesus is a frequent theme of the letters to the Church in Thessalonians; It is described as being similar to labour pains and a thief coming in the dark of night. Why do you think Paul described Jesus' return in those terms?

3. What is the predominant feeling that you have when you think about Jesus return? Why do you feel that way?

4. Paul's letter make it clear that this event is meant to be encouraging. (V 4:18 ; 5:11)

How can you build on that sense of encouragement?

5. Take some time to pray about these things.

- \* Pray for yourself.
- \* Pray for others; pray for the Church.

Each has a different role to play in participating in the return of Jesus.