

**POINT: KEEP LAST THINGS FIRST IN MIND SO YOU ARE ALWAYS PREPARING**

(1Th.1:9,10; Mt.24:30,31; see 42f,46; 48f; 1Tm.6:18,19; 1Cor.15:19,58)

**I. INTRODUCTION: PAUL'S MINISTRY IN MACEDONIA** (Acts 17:1-15)

**A. DEEDS: VISITED, REASONED, EXPLAINED, PROVED** (17:1f; see 1Th.2:7f; 3:1f)

**B. WORDS: REDEMPTION ACCOMPLISHED, APPLIED & APEXED**

1. *Redemption Accomplished: Necessity & Identity* (Acts 17:3a&b; see 1Th.1:10; 3:14a)

2. *Redemption Applied*

a. Perseverance under Persecution (Acts 17:5f; 13f; 1Th.1:6f; 2:2f,14f; 3:3f /1Th.2:7-11; 4:1f, 13f; 5:1f,12f)

b. Sanctification under Exhortation (not in Acts 17!; 1Th.1:9; 2:12; 3:12f; 4:1-12; 5:8-22)

3. *Redemption Apexed: Coming in the Clouds* (Acts 17:3 with 1Th.1:10; 4:14f; see Rom.6:4; 8:17f)

4. *Much teaching in Thessalonica-Berea!* (Acts 17:2,11; see 1Th.2:11; 4:6; 5:2f(4:9))

**II. LESSONS ON LAST THINGS IN FIRST THESSALONIANS**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. *Refrains: End & Purpose of All* ("end" of chapters; 1Th.1:9,10; 2:19,20; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23,24)

2. *Theme: The Presence of Christ in Glory* (Act 17:3 w/1Th.4:14; see 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; see Mt.16:27f (17:5); 24:30 &26:64(Dan.7:13); Tt.2:13; Rev.19-22; i.e., hope; 1Th.1:3 & 5:8)

**A. SAVING FAITH: WAIT FOR RAISED TO PRESENT & RESCUE** (1:9,10; see Acts 1:11; 3:21)

**B. HEAVENLY REWARD: PRIDE & JOY IN DISCIPLES AT PRESENCE** (2:19,20; 3:9; Phil.4:1; 2Cor.1:14; see Mt.28:18f; 1Tm.6:18,19)

**C. EARNEST PRAYER: BLAMELESS HOLINESS BEFORE GOD AT PRESENCE WITH SAINTS** (3:11-13; see 5:23)

**D. COMFORTING TEACHING: THOSE WHO DIE BEFORE PRESENCE** (4:13,18; 13-18)

1. *received the word of the Lord* (4:15; 1:6; 2:13; see Acts 17:11,1-4)

2. *died & raised and coming & bringing* (4:14; see Acts 17:3; 1Cor.15:6,18,20)

3. *fallen asleep* (4:13-15; see Lk.8:52; Jn.11:11; Acts 7:60; 13:36; 1Cor.15:51)

4. *asleep in Jesus; dead in Christ* (4:14,16; see Acts 2:24; Rev.14:13; see LC:86,90)

5. *the dead in Christ will rise first* (4:16; see 1Cor.15:51)

a. Lord descend from heaven with fanfare (4:16; see 1Cor.15:52; Jer.51:45; Lk.4:35; Jn.5:28f; 11:43)

b. living seized by the clouds with dead (4:17; see Acts 1:9,11; Mt.24:30; 26:64(Dan.7:13); Rev.1:7; see Ex.40:34; 1Kngs.8:10f; Ezk.10:3; Mt.17:5,1f)

c. meet to welcome (4:17; Acts 28:15; see Mt.21:8f; 2Sam.19:15; see Rev.21:1f)

6. *thusly always with the Lord we will be* (4:17; *presence*; see Jn.14:3; 17:24; Rev.21:3; see Heb.12:22)

7. *real, true comfort vs. empty, wishful imaginations* (18,14f; see 1Cor.15:58,1f; Rev.19-22)

**E. CHALLENGING TEACHING: PREPARE NOW FOR HIS PRESENCE** (5:1-11)

1. *day comes suddenly* (2-4; see Mt.24:42f; 2Pet.3:10; Rev.3:3; 16:15)

2. *destruction to those who sleep in sin* (2-7; see Eph.5:11f; Mt.24:48f)

3. *salvation to those who live in faith & love & hope* (8-11; see 1:3; Mt.24:45f)

**F. BLESSING OF COMPLETE SANCTIFICATION AT PRESENCE** (5:23,24; see 3:11-13; 4:1-12; see Phil.1:6; Eph.5:26,27; Rev.19:7f)

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*Brethren, what shall WE DO?* (see Acts 2:37f)