

“FOR THE FAITH”

UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICING THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS

LESSON 9 – “LIVING OUT A MODEL OF OUR FAITH” (Part 2)

IV. THEIRS WAS A _____ FAITH (1:9)

A. Their Works Were a Result of Their _____.

The word **repent** means to “*change one’s mind.*” It doesn’t mean to “*stop all sinning*”, or to “*change all of one’s ways*”, or to “*turn over a new leaf*”.

Most often in the New Testament, the term is used to describe *someone turning from a life of trusting in idols or _____, to trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.*

Our “**works**” are not the equivalent of repentance, but rather the natural and expected result **of** genuine repentance.

What are some things that we have done most recently that give testimony/proof to our repentance? **Acts 26:12-21** (V.20. “Meet” = suitable; or due as a result)

B. Their Works Were for the Living and True God

How truly rewarding it must have been for these *liberated new believers* to turn from their _____ idols to the One True Living God. (I Cor. 8:1-4/ Habakkuk 2:18-20)

Let us be reminded that there are today *numerous addictive strongholds* that are functioning as **twenty-first-century idols** in our lives. A believer in Jesus Christ will _____ REGRET leaving the service of idols for the service of the One, True Living God!!

V. THEIRS WAS A _____ FAITH (1:10)

A. They Waited With Patience

Modern day Christianity, in most cases, require such *little suffering* in comparison to these First Century Saints. One thing that we can identify with, is the Thessalonians desire for _____.

James 5:7-11 – James seems to be saying – “*Be patient. Jesus is coming! Just as a farmer must be patient with his crops, you must be patient with the circumstances in your life. Do not hold grudges because you will answer to Jesus Christ for so doing. You will be glad that you chose to endure – if you will just **BE PATIENT!***”

B. They Waited With _____ . (Titus 2:13)

The Thessalonian believers knew and believed that the return of Christ would be a “*glorious event*”.

Just as a bride eagerly and excitedly anticipates her union with her groom, the Thessalonian believers looked forward to the time of their reunion with Jesus _____ to _____.

CONCLUSION: The faith of the Thessalonian believers was genuine, and it was growing. What about mine, yours, ours, theirs? How do we **know** that their faith was growing?? We know because in Paul's second epistle/letter written to these believers, he speaks of their "***faith growing exceedingly***" (II Thess. 1:3). In the first letter, Paul said that their faith was spoken of all over the region. In his second letter, he said that their faith had grown extraordinarily. Is our faith growing? Are we "*living out a model of our faith*"? Suppose every Christian were just like us, what conclusions could be drawn about the "_____ life"? Has our faith resulted in a Spirit of Willingness, A Bold Witness, a Work of Service and a Expectant Waiting for our Saviour's return? Is our faith one worth imitating?

If not, let's determine today to do whatever needs to be done to become the kind of Christian that these Thessalonian believers were – a Christian who lives out the faith as a _____ for those around us to see.