

**WHITFIELD PARISH**  
St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group study notes w/b Advent Sunday  
2 December 2007

**"...with the Lord for ever."**  
1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11

**Read Acts 17:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14 and 3:6-7**

The Acts passage is Luke's account of how the Apostle Paul founded the church in Thessalonica. Paul's first letter to them was one of the earliest New Testament letters to be written, probably sent very shortly after his visit to them.

1. Before receiving the letter, what apostolic teaching had they got to guide them in the hostile environment of Thessalonica?
2. If you had been writing to them at that point, what would you have wanted them to know?

**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11**

3. What is the passage about?
4. Do you get the sense that we today are more or less preoccupied with the Lord's return?

Verse 13b tells us that believers shouldn't grieve. This verse sometimes troubles bereaved Christians.

5. What is Paul getting at?

[NB Paul's main teaching about the resurrection body is in 1 Corinthians 15:35-54 and Philippians 3:20-21]

6. What do you think Paul is driving at with the night and day language of 5:1-8?
7. How would you live today if you knew that Jesus was going to return tomorrow?
8. How can we keep a proper balance between fixating on the second coming and being complacent?

*"The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."*  
1 Thessalonians 5:24