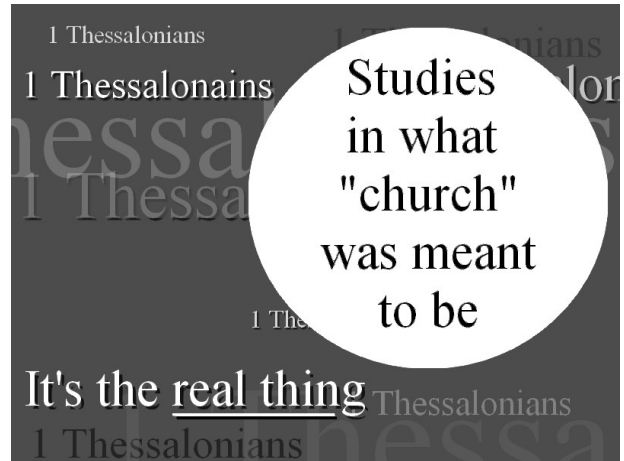


# Jesus Is Coming

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

## Getting Started

1. What kind of surprises have you experienced?
  - A Check in the mail
  - Medical
  - A bill
  - Friend in unexpected place
  - A deer in the road
  - Party
2. Do you like surprises? Why or why not?



## In the Word (1 Thes. 4:13 – 5:11; 2 Thes. 1:5-10)

Most groups will not have time to discuss all questions!

1. What concern of the Christians in Thessalonica does Paul seem to be addressing in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18? In what ways do people express similar concerns today?
2. What, if any, is the significance of Paul's use of the words "sleep" and "hope" in this passage? Does it relate to their concern? How does it help them deal with this concern?
3. How does the story of Jesus' first coming relate to his second? In what sense does this encourage believers?
4. Christians are not to be surprised by Jesus' coming again. We also are to expect we will not know when he his coming. What is Paul's point (5:1-6)? How does this expectation relate to character?
5. Jesus "died for us so... we may live together with him" (5:10). How does Paul's description of Jesus' second coming (1 Thes. & 2 Thes.) help in encouraging and building up believers?


## Application

1. Last week's lesson mentioned a "confession" of a church that stated (among others things) that their emphasis on "activity" had neglected the need to encourage Christians to pray, study, and reflect on how to apply God's word to their life. Has your group considered how you could encourage one another to pursue these disciplines?

## Additional Shepherds-Elders and Servants-Deacons


1. Please pray for the church as we seek out those whom God would have serve the church. If you have not already done so please go on-line **tonight** and share the names of those you would like to nominate for the Screening Committee.
2. Please begin now to study passages addressing leadership in the Kingdom of God (Mt 18:1-6; 20:25-28; Mark 9:33-37) and elders and deacons (Acts 14:23; 20:25-31; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

**NO DEBT  
NO SWEAT**  
February 24 - 25



**Friend Day**  
March 16, 2008

2 prayers for 2 hearts + 1 investment + 1 invitation =  
**The Greatest Gift**



**Choosing Additional  
Shepherds-Elders-Overseers  
and Deacons-Servants**

*Please keep the church in  
your prayers as we go  
through the process of  
identifying additional  
shepherds-elders and  
servants-deacons*