

Preparing for the Return of Christ
Living In The Last Days – Part 1
November 2, 2025

Acts 2:17a (NIV) *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”*

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3 (NIV) *“Paul, Silas and Timothy, **To the church of the Thessalonians** in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. ² We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 (NIV) *“For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that He has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.”*

**Many people embrace the love of God,
but live without the power of God.**

3 Ways Believers Live Ready in the Last Days

1. We turn from idols that deceive to the God who saves.

1 Thessalonians 1:9b (NIV) *“They tell how you turned to God from idols”*

An idol is anything you put in God's place.

Luke 12:18-19 (NIV) *“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’”*

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV) *“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.”*

The Biblical word for turning is repent.

2. We serve the living God, not dead idols.

1 Thessalonians 1:9b&c (NIV) *“They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.”*

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV) *“For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

Psalms 103:12 (NIV) *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*

**Turning to God to save you happens once,
but serving God happens daily.**

**Douleuō: to serve with complete loyalty,
putting the will of another above your own
Now is the time to serve the One who is coming again.**

3. We wait actively, preparing for the return of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10 (NIV) *“They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.”*

anaménein

ana: again, intensely

menein: to remain, stay, abide

To wait actively and faithfully with great expectation

Acts 1:11 (NIV) *“Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”*

Matthew 24:36 (NIV) *“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”*

I've only got so many days left to serve God.

4 Questions I'm Asking in the Last Days

- **Have I forgiven those who hurt me?**

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) *“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

- **Have I shared my faith with those who need Jesus?**

Romans 10:14-15 (NIV) *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”*

- **Am I more focused on this world than I am on eternity?**

Luke 8:14 (NIV) *“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.”*

- **Am I trusting in God's grace alone to save me?**

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

LIVE READY!