

# Confident Hope

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October 25, 2020



**Open:** Share about something you're looking forward to in the near future.

**Read & Discuss:** 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

1. In verse 8 Paul indicates the entire regions of Macedonia and Achaia had heard the Gospel. What percentage of your community would you guess has heard the Gospel? What would it take so Paul's statement to these believers could be said of us in our context? How would you like to contribute to making this happen here?
2. In verse 9 we learn that one visible change in the lives of these believers was they turned from idols to serve God. What are some visible changes we might expect to see in the lives of people today when they become Christians? What would such changes indicate to us?
3. When it comes to hope, these believers had previously put their hope in idols. What are some things that we—even as believers in Christ—are tempted to put our hope in? How do we know when our hope or trust in something is inappropriate?
4. Paul applauds the fact that having turned from idols, these believers are now waiting for Christ's return (vv. 9-10). What can we be looking forward to with regard to Christ's return? What would characterize a person who is waiting for Christ's return with confident hope? How do we know if we're *not* waiting well for Christ's return?
5. In connection with waiting for Christ's return, Paul highlights the fact that God "raised [Jesus] from the dead" (v. 10). Why should the fact that God raised Christ from the dead encourage us as we wait? What other factors give you confidence as you wait for Christ's return?
6. The hope of these believers was so strong that it was seen and reported by others. What would you like others to say about how our hope in Christ shaped the way we lived in this world?

**Apply:** What will you do this week to align your life more closely with the example of these believers?

**Pray:** Ask God to open our eyes to ways we are putting our hope in things inappropriately. Pray that God will fill us with a confident hope in Christ's return—a hope so strong it is visible to others.

**This Week:** To help you prepare to disciple someone, spend some time this week filling in the answers for Chapter 1 (pages 3-6) of *Christian Living for Starters*. Then memorize 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10.

## 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

<sup>[8]</sup> For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. <sup>[9]</sup> For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>[10]</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)