

Occasionally, while reading Scripture for the sheer pleasure of opening ourselves to a word from the Lord who loves, we come across a wonderful pithy summary of the life of faith.

I Thessalonians 1:9-10 is just such a succinct word:

“For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.”

The apostle Paul was explaining how the people of Macedonia summarized the response of the people of the town of Thessalonica to the good news about the person of Jesus.

They **turned** – from idols.

They **served** – a living and true God (that is to say, the real God).

They **waited** – for Jesus (the Jesus whom the real God raised from the dead).

What a wonderful summary of the entire Christian life. In your life – make the “turn” from that which is less than the God who loves you – choose to “serve” the God who loves you – and between now and the time you are face to face with Jesus – “wait” for Him and trust in Him.

May the One who rescues us from the wrath to come encourage your heart this day.

With joy – E. Stanley Ott, January 24, 2012 Vol. 11, No. 2, *TURN, SERVE WAIT*

Prayer Suggestions

- When was the last time you “read Scripture for the sheer pleasure of opening yourself to a word from the Lord who loves you?” Will *you* take time to do this in the coming week?
- Whom have *you* welcomed to worship lately? Do you look for new faces on Sunday mornings so you can welcome them in Jesus’ name to this family of faith? Pray for eyes to see and a heart to *welcome*.
- “Turning” (repenting) as described in these Scripture passages:
 Jeremiah 35:15 “...turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; ...”
 Acts 14:5 “...you should turn from these vain things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them.”
 1 Peter 3:11 “Turn away from evil and do good.”
 Pray that you will be faithful in turning/repenting day by day as the Spirit leads you.
- “Serving” as described in these Scripture passages:
 Hebrews 9:14 “... how much more shall the blood of Christ ... purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ...”
 Galatians 5:13 “...through love, serve one another.”
 Pray for a servant heart, for Jesus came “not to be served, but to serve.” (Matthew 20:28)
- “Waiting” as described in these Scripture passages:
 Isaiah 40:31a “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew *their* strength;”
 Micah 7:7 “... I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.”
 Psalm 130:6a “My soul *waits* for the Lord.”
 Ask God to help you ‘actively’ *wait* for Him.