

December 6, 2015
Thank You, Father, for Saving Us from Wrath (I Thessalonians 5)
Ted Cunningham

(A note to facilitators: As always you will pick and choose discussion questions that are best suited for your group. Many of you will not want to tackle questions 6 and 7. May God bless you as you seek him in your small group time.)

1. In the spirit of the thank you cards the speakers have “written” during the I Thessalonians Thank You series (or in a serious spirit), finish this thank you note: Thank you Branson, Missouri, for _____.

2. As you listen to the news of a country and world that is getting smaller and smaller, what has frightened or saddened you?

3. Ted said the tone of this letter was that of a child being comforted. What scripture has given you great comfort lately and how has it done so?

4. List the three reasons Ted gave for why we should study prophecy.

(Knowing prophecy comforts, encourages, and gives hope where there would normally be no hope. Knowing prophecy protects Christians from the counterfeit strategies of Satan and the world system that is under his control. Knowing prophecy motivates Christians to holy living.)

5. What reason did he give for not studying prophecy?

(Knowing prophecy is not for the purpose to satisfy our curiosity or an urge for the sensational.)

6. According to the chart, the seven days of tribulation will be followed by 1000 years of Christ’s reign on earth, and then there will be the division of heaven and hell. How can we be comforted with the joy of rapture and being with God, knowing millions will not be, including, for instance, young girls in Cambodia (and all across the globe) caught in the sex trade, who die young from abuse and disease without knowing or ever hearing about Jesus?

7. In *Hope Beyond Hell*, Gerry Beauchemin, a medical missionary, says the traditional view of hell (eternal separation and suffering) “maligns the character of God.” For many unbelievers, and even believers like Beauchemin, the traditional view of hell is a major stumbling block to faith rather than an incentive to believe.

*What major characteristics of God seem to violate eternal separation and suffering—even for those who have never heard of his precious son?

*Does John 3:16 suggest a viewpoint of hell that correlates better with God’s character?

*Does I Thessalonians 5:15, “Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but

always strive to do good to each other and for everyone else” give any insight into the concept of hell or end times?

*There are several viewpoints about end times and hell. Must one believe in a certain viewpoint to be a Christian?

*What must we believe to be a Christian?

8. Verse 6 says, “So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.” What is it to live “awake” and “sober”?

9. Read vv. 12-22.

*How can we give thanks in all circumstances?

*How do we quench the Spirit?

10. Verses 23-24 say: “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who call you is faithful, and he will do it.”

*What does last word “it” stand for.

*What does that mean to you?

