

An aerial photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are walking across the crossing. In the top left, the lower legs and feet of a few people are visible. In the top right, a man in a striped shirt and khaki pants is walking, looking down at his phone. In the middle left, a person in a light green shirt and dark pants is walking. In the middle right, a person in a black t-shirt and dark shorts is walking, carrying a brown bag. In the bottom left, a person in a white t-shirt and dark shorts is walking. In the bottom middle, a person in a plaid shirt and light pants is walking, carrying a bag. In the bottom right, a person is walking under a blue patterned umbrella. The shadows of the pedestrians are cast onto the white stripes of the crossing, indicating a bright, sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“What the Church Should Be”
(Part 5)**

I THESSALONIANS 1:10

- A. They were known for working out their faith (vs. 3a).
- B. They were known for loving to serve others (vs. 3b).
- C. They were known for persevering with hope (vs. 3c).
- D. They were known for their election by God (vs. 4).
- E. They were known for their reception of the Word (vs. 5).
- F. They were known for their disciple-making (vs. 6a, 7).
- G. They were known for their willingness to suffer (vs. 6b).
- H. They were known for rejoicing in the Holy Spirit (vs. 6c).
- I. They were known for impacting their community (vs. 8-9).

What Made the Church Worthy of Emulation?

KEY POINT:

A godly church is elect, exemplary,
enthusiastic, and expectant.

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- H. They were known for rejoicing in the Holy Spirit (vs. 6c).
- I. They were known for impacting their community (vs. 8-9).
- J. were known for their expecting of the Lord's return (vs. 10).

What Made the Church Worthy of Emulation?

*19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming?
Is it not you?*

20 For you are our glory and joy.

I Thessalonians 2:19-20

so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

I Thessalonians 3:13

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen ...

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

... asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, ...

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

... and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, ...

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

... let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

- Plural form “heavens” in the original
- Three levels of heaven in Judaism
 1. Atmosphere
 2. Universe
 3. God’s abode
- When Jesus returns, it will seem like He is coming from all levels of heaven.

“From Heaven?”

*He who descended is the one who also ascended
far above all the heavens,
that he might fill all things.*

Ephesians 4:10

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to
save the lost.*

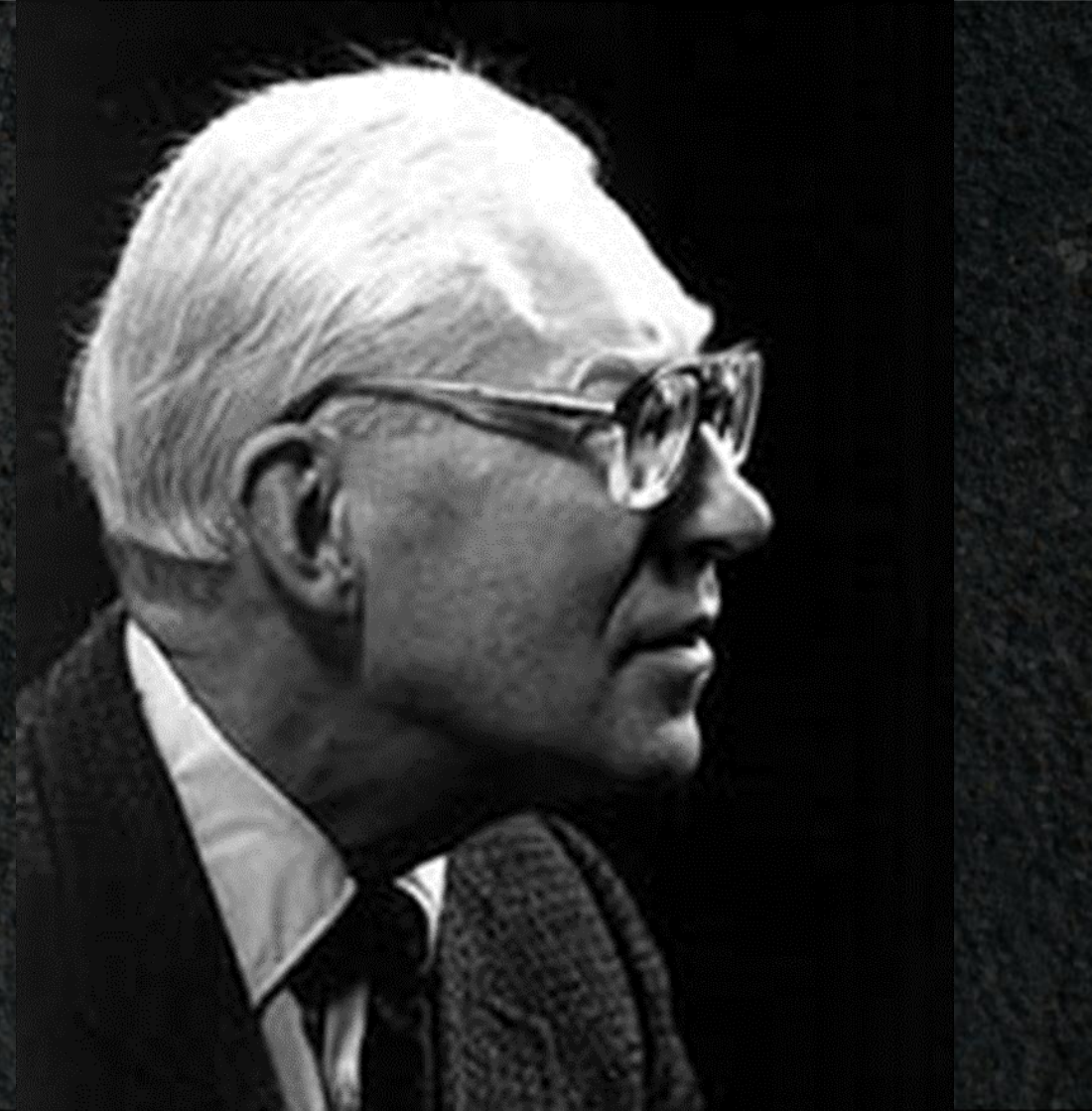
Luke 19:10

“Wrath is the holy
revulsion of God’s being
against that which is the
contradiction of
his holiness.”



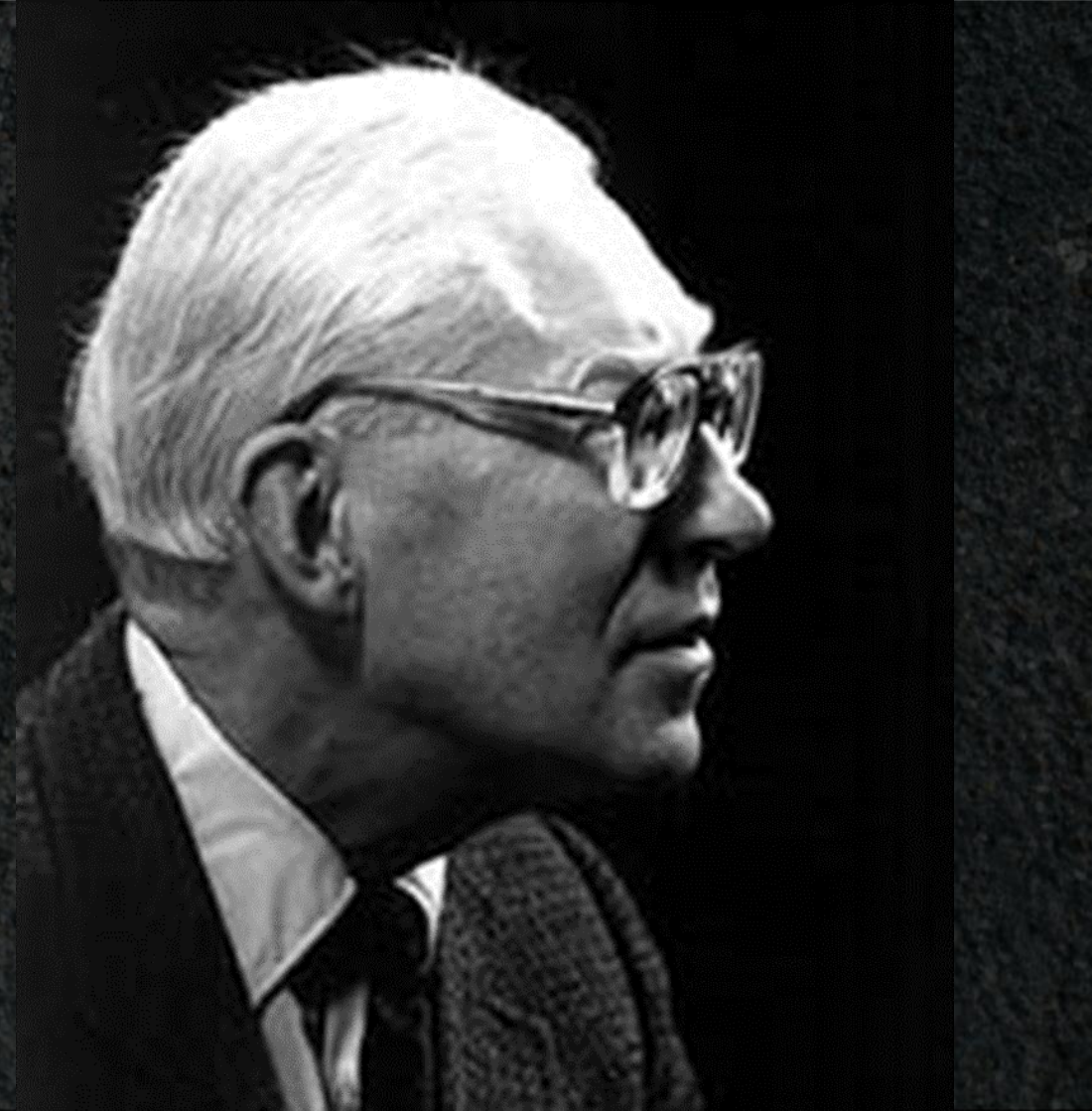
D. Edmond Hiebert

“It is not the capricious, arbitrary, bad-tempered, and conceited anger that pagans attribute to their gods. It is not the sinful, resentful, malicious, infantile anger that we find among humans. It is a function of that holiness which is expressed in ...



**J.I. Packer, *In My Place
Condemned He Stood***

... the demands of God's
moral law,
and of that righteousness
which is expressed in
God's acts of judgment
and reward."



**J. I. Packer, *In My Place
Condemned He Stood***

1. A temporal wrath not meant for Christians?

- Like the judgment of Gentile nations (Joel 3:1-2; Matthew 25:31-46), or judgment of Satan and fallen angels (Revelations 20:10), or Great White Throne (Revelations 20:11-15)
- PRO – Preposition “away” might suggest Christians aren’t present.

2. God’s eternal wrath

- PRO – Romans 5:9-10; John 3:36

Delivered from What Kind of Wrath?

“The sum of all that I have said is this, let all who are not the Lord’s come, and, first of all, give their own selves to him, and then give themselves to his people, and to his service; and let those of us who are already Christ’s keep together, and fulfil our vows...



**Charles Spurgeon,
“The Best Donation”**

...more than ever we have done, and so prove continually that we have given ourselves to the Lord, and to his people, according to his will. Thus shall God be magnified, Christ glorified, his church increased, and the world blessed. God grant it, for Jesus Christ's sake! Amen."



**Charles Spurgeon,
“The Best Donation”**