

"What Does It Mean to 'Turn to God'?"

Kotton Ballance

In the book of 1 Thessalonians Paul is so thankful for these Christians faithfulness. In Acts 17, Paul established this church and had to leave very soon because of persecution. Since that moment, Paul had worried about these Christians. So, he sent Timothy to them to check on them and make sure they were going to be okay ([1 Thessalonians 3:1-3](#)). When Timothy reported back to Paul, Paul was thrilled to hear that these Christians had remained faithful and continued to grow despite the poor circumstance ([1 Thessalonians 3:6-8](#)).

Paul makes a comment to these Christians in [1 Thessalonians 1:9-10](#), that shows what these people had been doing since they turned to God. Paul said, "For they themselves report about us what kind of reception we had with 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, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come." What we see in this passage is that these Christians, that Paul is so thankful for, had turned to God and were actively doing two things.

They turned to God "to serve" ([1 Thessalonians 1:9](#)) The first thing they were doing is serving a living and true God. It is a pretty common thing to hear that Christians "serve God," but what does that really mean? The Greek word for "serve" comes from the same Greek word for "slave." Serving God is the idea of putting yourself into a position as a slave of God. That is what these Christians had done. They turned from the meaningless idols of the world to be a slave of the one true and living God. Have you made yourself into a slave for God? When you turned to God, did you see yourself has putting yourself under God's ownership to use and utilize as He pleases? This is what Paul was so thankful to hear of in the lives of these Christians. Would Paul be thankful for your faithfulness today if he heard of the way you were living? If we are truly serving God, as we claim to be, we ought to be a people who put ourselves under His ownership to be used as He pleases.

They turned to God "to wait" ([1 Thessalonians 1:10](#)) The second thing they were doing is waiting for Jesus to return from Heaven. These Christian people had turned from idols who gave them no hope after this life so that they could have a hope after this life in Jesus. These Christians were eagerly waiting for the return of Jesus so that they could go on to something greater than this world. Is that your attitude? Are you someone who is eagerly waiting for the return of Christ? If Jesus came back today, would you be ready for that? Paul was thankful for Christians who were eagerly anticipating the return of Jesus. We must strive to be those who are waiting for this world to end and the new one to come.

Paul was thrilled to hear about the faithfulness of the Christians in Thessalonica because of their attitude to serve God and to wait for Jesus to return. We should strive to be a people who do the same. I want to encourage you to be like the Thessalonians, who turned to God in order to serve God and to wait for Jesus' return.



Welcome

TO
KOUNTZE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Aug.

"Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

Luke 2:52

8th

Meeting Times

Sunday Bible Class – 9:30

AM Worship – 10:30

PM Worship – 1:30

Wednesday Night Bible Class – 7:00

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101.3 FM Radio

Kountze Church of Christ

Today's Lessons

AM.....Learning and Growing
PM.....A Symbolism for Sin

Men to Serve

Announcements.....Bud Wolcott
Song Leader.....Sterling McDonald
Opening Prayer.....
Communion Leader.....
Sermon.....Corey Tackett
Closing Prayer.....

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- A new class quarter will start September 5th. Please consider volunteering to teach a class.
- If you have other announcements to be added to next week's bulletin please give them to Corey.

Aug 15th – Business Meeting
Sep 6th – Labor Day

Records

Sunday AM.....54 Wednesday PM.....N/A
Sunday PM..... Contribution.....N/A

Birthdays:

04.....Erin Neely
08.....Shane Jenkins
10.....Sterling McDonald
15.....Zach McDonald
20.....Denise Whatley
23.....Callie Collins

Anniversaries:

09.....Stuart & Donna
12.....Steve & Cindy

Visitors,

You are welcome and wanted. We are glad you made the decision to be with us.

If you have any questions or needs, please reach out to any of our members and we'll be more than happy to help you.

If you're looking for a Church home, we'd love the opportunity to study with you and have you join our congregation's family.

Prayer Requests and Updates

Members:

- Dwayne Baker
- Ed & Linda Bumstead
- Fred Johnson
- Vera Shavers
- Gaylon & Gladys Williams

Family and Friends:

- Tony Wright & Charles Wright
- Mandy Owens
- Jeanie Beck
- Danny Roberts
- Shawn Gunter
- Susan Golden
- Kyle Tantillo
- Donna Melton
- Christie Baker