EXEMPLARY FAITH FOR IMMINENT RAPTURE – Introduction

"I've stopped looking for signs and started listening for the shout." – "Anybody can take a newspaper with one hand and the Bible with the other hand and see how everything – all history – is fitting into the sockets of prophecy." **– Adrian Rogers**

Christ's return is the great _____ of the church!

The Devil wants you to have just enough faith, but not soul stirring _____ faith.

Acts 17:1-9 {Page **1685** Pew Bible}

1 Thessalonians 1:9 … They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

1 Thessalonians 1:3 We continually remember before our God and Father your **work** produced by faith, your **labor** prompted by love, and your **endurance** inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's purpose in writing this letter was …

1. To continue _____ these believers who were hungry for the Word in the midst of increasing persecution!

The Thessalonian believers are a great example of filtering our inner thoughts, questions, and doubts _____ the Word of God!

2. To answer _____ accusations made about Paul and his ministry! – **John 8:44**

3. To bring _____ to questions about loved ones who had already passed away!

Paul illuminates the gospel's hope that …

1) Christians who die go _____ to Heaven!
2) At the rapture, our loved ones will be _____ of us to greet us!
3) We shall be with the Lord _____!
4) We should _____ one another with this knowledge!

4. To _____ Christians against paganism and immorality!

He warns them to be on guard against the _____ nature at war within us! – **Psalm 103:12; John 8:36; Luke 9:62**

5. To remind the church to _____ their spiritual leaders! – **1 Thessalonians 5:12–13**

"The properly appointed leaders of the local church are vested with authority. The church is not a dictatorship, and it is not a democracy; it is a theocracy. The Holy Spirit qualifies and calls people to roles of leadership. **– John Phillips**

6. To encourage Christians to keep living their faith and not _____ _____ in light of Christ's promise to return!

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith.

Jude 3 … contend for the faith

James 2:14–17 … faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

1 Peter 3:15 … Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Matthew 28:19–20 Therefore go and make disciples … teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.