



Preparation For The Day Of The Lord 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Today, discussing something called the Day of the Lord. Going to see several contrasts:

- Children of darkness / Children of light
- Some who sleep / Some who stay awake
- Others / You
- Those who live under false peace & security / Those who live under true peace & security
- Choice to be sober / Choice to get drunk
- Those that experience the wrath of God / Those that experience the rescue of God

Review

- Jesus is coming back for His church.
- The same way he ascended, he will descend.
- There is no soul sleep, no purgatory, no second chance to “get right with God.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 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.

- Stop worrying about the when. End times stuff is not supposed to paralyze us.
- Concerned with the how, or the certainty that it WILL happen, but not the when.
- Paul is saying the same thing Jesus said...don't worry about the specific time.

Matthew 24:36-44 But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- **What is the Day of the Lord?** Used 19 times in OT; 5 times in the NT

- First mentioned in:

Amos 5:18-20 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

- OT passages depict imminence, nearness, expectation:

Isaiah 13:6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!

- Some OT passages refer to judgments that have already been fulfilled in some sense. Others point to the future.
- Every time -- fierce, something to be greatly feared!
- NT passages point to a still future fulfillment -- "great day of God Almighty."
- This is a period, not a literal day.

"It does not refer to a single day, but to a season when God rapidly advances His agenda to the end of the age. '**The day of the Lord**' is a familiar Old Testament expression. It denotes the day when God intervenes in history to **judge His enemies, deliver His people, and establish His kingdom.**" (Hiebert)

- **Judgement-- God is going to war against the wicked. And He is good and perfect when He does this.**

Romans 2:2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

- **Deliverance -- God rescues His own.**
- **Kingdom establishment -- God puts things as they ought to be.**

1 Thessalonians 5:3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

- Return is sudden.
- False security is all around. Full bank account. Big house. Powerful job.
 - Noah WAS preaching repentance.
 - Prophets preach repentance.
 - John preached repentance.
 - Peter, Paul, the apostles preached repentance.
 - WE preach repentance.
- **My goal in preaching--to knock the legs out from under you of any false security in which you hope!**
- Labor pains--you know what is coming. Return, judgement is imminent -- "nothing can stop this."

1 Thessalonians 5:4 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.

- Hope we discussed last week.

- Light vs. darkness

Colossians 1:21-22 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

- Thessalonians had misunderstood the second coming of the Lord, and the judgment.
- Don't be unaware.
- Don't be living just for today.
- There is not "now" and "eternity." We're in eternity NOW.
- We are to rest in security, but not slumber. We're to be awake.
- We are to be witnesses, make disciples **in the world**.

1 Thessalonians 5:7-9 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, 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.

- Both these protect us from mortal wounds.
- Breastplate of faith and love.--protects our heart. (remember, this church had good reputations in these 2 areas).
- Helmet--the hope of salvation.--protects our mind.

Romans 5:9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

- "I'm saved." Good. What are you saved *from*? You are saved from the wrath of God.
- God is just when he punishes the wicked.
- So what does Jesus say to do as we wait?

Matthew 24:45-51 Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- **Saved by God... from God... for God**