

### INTRODUCTION

- My purpose and desire is found in v.11, but I bring it forward here so that you don't miss it
- Comfort (Gk. parakaleo - speak words of encouragement) each other
- Edify (Gk.oikodomeo – strengthen, build up, restore, rebuild ) one another
- This is not only what I am interested in doing, but what we as believers are called to do with the Word of God
- I am increasingly dis-interested in speculative and abstract theologizing – all biblical theology is practical
- We need to be frequently (and humbly) asking the question "so what?" – based on \_\_\_\_\_, how should we live?
- The specific subject that Paul addresses is "the day of the Lord", assuming connection to flow of text (vv.13-18)
- There is not a change of subject as if he is describing two (or more) separate events

### EXPOSITION

#### Concerning the Time of the Day of the Lord – vv.1-2

Principle: Every believer already knows what they need to know about that Day, and do not need to expend energy in chronological speculations

- Paul references times (Gk. chronos – indefinite time) and the seasons (Gk. kairos – a specific time)
- When this subject is addressed inevitably there is an interest in times, and when they will take place
- There is a compulsion to try to figure out where we are in the time line of eschatological history
- He goes against this, assuring them that they already know all they need to know about that Day
- The single most important thing we need to know is that that Day comes "as a thief in the night"
- We do not have the information needed to anticipate that time – the point throughout is constant preparedness

#### The Day of the Lord and Non-Christians – v.3

Principle: Unbelievers will dwell in deceptive security until that Day, which will be to them a day of destruction.

- There is a major switch in the discussion here, from the "us" and "we" to "they; he is speaking of non-Christians
- Their general attitude in relation to a great day of judgment, and of a returning God-man is that of indifference
- There is a self-assuring repetition to themselves, and to one another, that things will be okay
- There is confidence in self-righteousness, man-made religion, comparative judgment
- To their surprise, that Day will come with great "shock and awe" – it is sudden, it is destruction
- This destruction is described as being like labor pains - we shouldn't miss the analogy
- The point isn't that they know they are pregnant, and the pains are anticipated - that would be the opposite point
- Rather, it is the severity and inescapable nature of it – Isaiah 13:6-9
- In that day, there was no epidural; you couldn't decide once the pain hit to not be pregnant
- There is no escape when once that day comes – does this not alarm you if there is uncertainty about *your faith claim*?

#### The Day of the Lord and Christians – vv.4-10

Principle: Because of we have become, what God has appointed, and what Christ has accomplished should be always ready for the arrival of that Day.

##### 1.) What we have become – vv.4-5

- Sons of light, sons of the day – the opposite of sons of the darkness and of the night
- This was not always they case; before the grace of God we were these children of darkness and separated from God

##### 2.) What God has appointed us to – v.9

- Appoint - to designate, set in place, or fix by authority
- Negatively - not to wrath, angry retribution, punishment, and justice – escape from Hell (will you glory in this?)
- Positively – to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ

##### 3.) What Christ has accomplished for us – v.10

- He died for us – substitutionary atonement – HERE IS THE GOSPEL!
- So that we should live together with Him (in union with Him) whether we wake or sleep
- Here is more than escape from Hell, but *life with Christ*; He has died so that we can have fellowship with Him

Question: How are we then to be always ready?

##### (1.) Do not sleep, but watch – vv.6-7

- There is a spiritual sleep in contrast to watchfulness – what kind of things cause sleep?

##### (2.) Do not be drunk, but be sober – vv.6-7

- There is a spiritual intoxication in contrast to sobriety – what kind of things intoxicate us?

##### (3.) Do not live as if it is peacetime (v.3), but live as if in wartime – v.8

- There is a spiritual ease in contrast to a wartime mentality
- The weapons of faith (not what is seen), love (acts to God and neighbor), and hope (of Christ's coming)
- This hope is particularly born out of v.9, His electing grace – being confident in this brings true hope

### APPLICATION

- What does this message say to you? If you are a Christian? If you are not a Christian?
- v.11 Comfort and edifying one another (if believers), discomfort and warn (unbelievers)