



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

LESSON: BE READY—August 31, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

1ST Thess—4:13-18 In this section of the letter Paul replies to those who had lost loved ones in death since Paul had left. They wondered about the spiritual welfare of those who had died. And Paul did not want them to be ignorant of those that are asleep. They were not to grieve like those that have no hope, for those that believe in the resurrection, and are sleep are in Jesus. God will bring back with Him the believers who have died. According to the Lord's Word, those that are alive and remain, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. The Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with an archangel's voice, and a trumpet's blast, then the dead in Christ shall rise first and we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. We are to encourage each other with these words.

LESSON:

I. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-3

1ST Thess—5:1 **But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.** Now the focus shifts to the return of Christ to judge the earth. Paul is speaking to believers, calling them "**brothers.**" The Thessalonians have been well educated by Paul regarding future events. This does not mean that they knew everything, but evidently Paul felt that their understanding was adequate.

- "**Times**" (chronon) meant chronological time, the events that follow one another, and roll in and away from one another.
- "**Seasons**" (kairon) meant the particular time and the nature of the events that are to take place.

There are two reasons why they didn't need any more data. Jesus made it clear that no one knows the exact time when Jesus will return, therefore, Paul didn't have to write about that. *Matthew 24:36* says "*No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*" Therefore, there was no need to discuss or for Paul to write about the times and seasons. ¹But they knew what to look for in the world – they were to recognize the season by looking around at the signs of the times:

- i. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and the Sadducees for being unable to discern the season by looking around. He told them in, *Matt. 16:2-3* ... "*When it is evening, you say, it will be fair weather, for the sky is red. And in the morning, there will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening. Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?*"
- ii. Another example to discern the signs of the times. The Bible has spelled it out for us. *2Tim. 3:1-4* "*But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control,*

¹ <http://www.rondaniel.com/library/52-1Thessalonians/1Thessalonians0501.html>
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brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...."

- iii. Another example to discern the sign of the times is that the church itself becomes corrupted: *2Tim. 4:3-4 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but {wanting} to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths."*

In our generation, sound doctrine and bible teaching isn't what most people in the church want to hear.

They want feel-good messages, seeker-sensitivity, and acceptance of all "*lifestyle choices*." They want edification without rebuke. They want fellowship without accountability. Saints, look at the seasons, it is so clear: **We are in the last days!** The reason Paul would not need to write is introduced in 5:2.

1ST Thess—5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

They know perfectly well "**that the day of the Lord is coming as...**", but do not know the date of Christ's return to judge the world for He is coming as a thief in the night. The "**Day of the Lord**" is a phrase that is used many times in the Old Testament (Is.2:12; 13:6-9 etc.). The prophets used the term to describe God's judgment on the pagan nations surrounding Israel. I also want you know what Matthew 24:14 says, "*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*"

"**The Day of the Lord**" is a period of time in which God will deal with wicked men directly and dramatically in fearful judgment. Today a man may be a blasphemer of God; an atheist can denounce God and teach bad doctrine. Seemingly God does nothing about it. But the day designated in scripture as "*the Day of the Lord*" is coming when God will punish human sin, and He will deal in wrath and in judgment with a Christ-rejecting world. One thing we are sure of, that God in His own way will bring every soul into judgment (The Thessalonian Epistles, p.76).

Remember, that day, the day when God will bring every soul into judgment is what the Bible calls "**the Day of the Lord.**" When is Christ returning? When the earth has reached such a depraved condition that it is hopelessly lost forever, and ripe for the judgments of "**the Day of the Lord.**" There are **three strong reasons** of why the believer is not to be caught off guard by "**the Day of the Lord.**"

1. It will be **unexpected** (5:2b). "**The Day of the Lord**" will come when the world of "**unbelievers**" feel a great sense of security (false security)—when they are saying "**peace and safety**" (5:3b). Also in *Revelation 16:15*, Jesus says, "**Behold, I come as a thief!**" Just as a burglar does not announce his arrival, Jesus will come when He is least expected.

1ST Thess—5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travall upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

2. It will be **sudden destructive** (5:3a). "**The Day of the Lord**" comes when they are saying "**peace and safety**", a terrible destruction will be lying right over the horizon. Peace - they say "**everything's okay on the inside.**" Safety - they say, "**everything's okay on the outside.**" But it's not okay inside or out, and anyone who says it is either lying or deceived. The Lord is going to bring **sudden destruction** to this world, and when it happens, people are going to be totally unaware. Not because they weren't warned, but because they didn't listen. Suddenly, out of nowhere, the great and terrible Day of the Lord will fall upon the world.



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3. It will be inescapable (5:3b). When the **"Day of the Lord"** finally comes and God's fury is poured out on the earth, there will be no place to run, and no place to hide. Paul uses a fascinating analogy to make his point. He compares it to a woman who is having labor pains. It will be just like the travail that suddenly strikes a woman who is with child. The pain, suffering, and destruction will be relentless and inescapable for unbelievers. No one will escape. Believers won't be around anyway for the **"Day of the Lord"** because we will be Raptured before it begins.

Evidently **"they and them"** (5:3) refer to those left behind after the removal of the church, that is, ALL unbelievers.

II. I THESSALONIANS 5:4-8

1ST Thess—5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Paul assures them, and clears away any confusion, and concern for the Thessalonians. ²But we're not going to be caught like this. We know that the signs of the times indicate that this is coming soon. We know that God has called us to holiness, and righteousness, and steadfastness of hope. And we know that the wrath of God will be poured out on the ungodliness of this earth, in that great and terrible **"Day of the Lord."** Let's take a look at the Believer.

1. The genuine believer will not dwell in the darkness of ignorance. Therefore, the believer's mind and thoughts should not be upon the world, but walking about, always praying, and thinking about the things of God, and the utter necessity to reach people for Christ, for the great and terrible day of the Lord is coming.

1ST Thess—5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Because of this, how a believer behaves while he is on earth matters greatly to God.

2. The believer is a child of light. This simply means that the believer is a child of God, for God is light (1Jh.1:5). He knows God; therefore, he is not to be caught off guard nor surprised when the Lord comes.
3. The believer is a child of the day, which means that the believer will escape the judgment of God because he is a child who is accepted by God, and will not face the terrible Day of the Lord, nor suffer the judgment of God's wrath. He is a child of the day, a contrast of night. Therefore, there is no night, no darkness in the day. **"The children of the day"** are awake, alert, and ready for Christ's return.

Light and day represent God and His children while darkness and night represent the lost.

1ST Thess—5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. Paul reminds us, as believers, that we need to be alert. The believer is not to sleep, but to watch and be sober. When a person is asleep, naturally, he is not alert, nor involved in what is going on around him. However, this **"Sleep"** refers to spiritual sleep. When a believer is spiritually asleep, he is not alert, or involved in the things of God. His mind and behavior are not concerned with the things of God. He slumbers, dozes, and sleeps. Therefore, he will be caught off guard when the Lord returns. Paul reminds us, as believers, that we need to be alert. The believer is not to sleep, but to watch and be sober. When a person is asleep, naturally, he is not alert, nor involved in what is going on around him. However, this **"Sleep"** refers to spiritual sleep. When a believer is spiritually asleep, he is not alert, or involved in the things of God. His mind and behavior are not concerned with the things of God. He slumbers, dozes, and sleeps. Therefore, he will be caught off guard when the Lord returns.

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To **"watch"** means to be alert, and on guard for Christ.

- To be **"sober"** means to be rigid in discipline and in control for Christ; to live a strict life of righteousness and godliness, ever looking for the return of the Lord.

1ST Thess—5:7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. **"Sleep and night"** refers to those that are unaware of the Lord's coming. In 5:2 it says ...**the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.** Paul is reminding us that we are not like the world. We are not to be **"asleep."** Those that sleep can be identified as fallen asleep spiritually.

- They no longer are alert to the things of God.
- They no longer are alive to God—thinking and keeping their thoughts upon God.
- They no longer are worshipping God, praying, and fellowshiping with God, and His people.
- They no longer are anticipating the return of Christ.
- They no longer are active for God; serving and working for God.

The person who sleeps, sleeps in the night, and the person who gets drunk, gets drunk in the night. Some have identified with the night, as evil behavior. We are not to be drunkards, giving in to the flesh. Therefore, if a believer carouses around with those who are of the night, he is identifying himself with the sinners of the world.

1ST Thess—5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. This is the believer's duty: to be sober to protect himself; that is, being mentally awake, alert, and watchful looking for Jesus' return. He must make sure that he stays spiritually sober, and well protected. *Is.59:16-17* says **"For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon his head..."** This poses a question: How and Why?

1. **The How** can the believer stay sober and protected?— By putting on the armor of God. What is the armor of God?
 - a. It is the **breastplate** of the Christian soldier—**faith and love**. The breastplate protects and covers the heart of the believer to keep faith and love at the forefront, focused upon Christ and His cause. We have faith to believe in God's promises. We have love because of **His** love.
 - b. It is the **helmet** of the Christian soldier— **the hope of salvation**. We must keep our minds focused upon Christ. How can we do this? By protecting our minds with the helmet of God's armor—the hope of salvation, **We stay sober** (clear-headed; self-controlled). Knowing that Jesus has given us salvation as a gift that voids the lies of the enemy. Our hope keeps us sober, for our salvation is guaranteed, and nothing can take it away. The helmet covers our Salvation from spiritual attacks of the mind; thoughts. This great hope gives us the guarantee of deliverance from this present evil world.

So, those of the day, living in the light choose the armor of faith, love and hope for they play an important part of being ready for Jesus' return.

III. I THESSALONIANS 5:9-11

1ST Thess—5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,— We are saved from the world, the flesh, and the devil. But first and foremost, we are rescued by the grace of God from His wrath we deserved. Our appointment to wrath was **"scheduled"** in two ways:

1. **First**, because of what Adam did to us and the whole human race, that made us appointed



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to God's wrath (Rom. 5:14-19).

2. **Second**, because of our own sin, we are appointed to wrath. When Jesus died on the cross, He stood in our place, and in our appointment to wrath, God **"re-schedules"** us with an appointment to obtain salvation. God has designed for us, as believers, that we should **"obtain" (Gr peripoiēsis) salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."**

2. **The Why** the believer should stay sober and protected?— To obtain Salvation. There are two significant reasons.

1. God has not appointed us to wrath, but to salvation. The only way to escape the wrath of God is to stay sober, and focused upon Jesus Christ. **"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth..." Col.3:5a**. There is no excuse for a believer to fall asleep and return to the world of darkness.

1ST Thess—5:10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

1. Since Christ died for us, we have an invitation to live with Him. The words **"wake or sleep"** mean alive or departed. When Christ returns, whether we are still alive on the earth or departed, we shall live together with Him forever and ever. This is why He died; the very reason He went to the cross: that we might have the glorious privilege of living together with Him throughout all eternity.

1ST Thess—5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Paul repeats this from (4:18). The believer is to minister by comforting, and edifying others. God has delivered us from the wrath to come, and given us the glorious hope of living face to face with Him forever. Therefore, we are not to sleep, but we are to be sober, awake, alert, and watchful for that glorious day.

- We are to **"comfort"** (*parakaleite*) each other: exhort (urge), encourage, and admonish each other.
- We are to **"edify"** (*oikodomeite*) each other: strengthen, and build each other up, just as they were already doing, which is one of the reasons for fellowship in the church.

SUMMARY:

1ST Thess—5:1-3 Paul lets the Thessalonians know that he doesn't need to write about the times and seasons because they already know that the **"Day of the Lord"** is coming like a thief in the night. This event will be unexpected, destructive, and inescapable. Once they think they are at peace and safe, a sudden disaster will come like the labor pains of a woman, causing no escape.

1ST Thess 5:4-8 Paul lets them know that they are brethren that will not be overtaken as a thief because they are not in the dark to these things. They have been saved, and are the children of the light, and the children of the day. Darkness obscures our view. The light makes manifest. This is not the time to sleep but this is the time to be alert and clearheaded. Remember what Jesus said in *Mark 13:33-37* **"Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the {appointed} time is. It is like a man, away on a**



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*journey, {who} upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, {assigning} to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert - for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning - lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all, **'Be on the alert!'** "* Too many have gotten spiritually sleepy. Whoever is sinning seems to think the darkness will cover the sin. Those who have drunk too much wine lose control of their actions. But being of the Day, stay alert by putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.

1ST Thess—5:9-11 Because God chose to save us, not to pour out His anger upon believers. Christ died for us that whether wake or sleep, we share His life; to live together with Him. That's why Paul tells them to keep doing what they have been doing— encourage, comfort, and build-up one another. They'll find hope in being alert and watchful because they were prepared on the **"Day of Lord's"** return. And they were helpful to one another, encouraging and lifting the other up by allowing others to see that there will be a glorious return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! He's Coming Soon!