

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

I. The Day of the Lord (vv.1-3)

- a. Two distinct problems have always fascinated human minds. 1) What happens after death. Where are our loved ones, and shall we see them again? 2) What will happen at the end of the world? Is there going to be a day of reckoning, and if so, how can we prepare for it?
- b. The first is the problem of bereavement, and concerns others who have died. The second is the problem of judgment.
- c. *The times and season* (v.1). The Thessalonians thought they could get be better prepared for Christ's coming judgment if they knew when He would arrive.
 1. During Paul's ministry at Thessaloniki, he taught them that no one knows the time of Christ's return. *The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night* (v.2).
- d. The trouble with burglars is they do not tell us when they are coming.
- e. Beware of those unbelievers who tell you about *peace and security* (v.3). Believers wait with holy anticipation. We look forward to His return with faith and obedience.
- f. Christ's coming will be sudden and unavoidable without escape.

II. The Comfort of Staying Alert (vv.4-8)

- a. Paul explained there is no need for Christ coming to take believers by surprise.
- b. The issue is not in knowing when Jesus will come, but in staying awake and alert. (v.4) (1 John 2:28)
- c. Paul explains that darkness, sleep, and drunkenness are three reasons why people are unprepared for a night visit by a burglar. (v.7)
- d. Spiritually speaking, will Jesus come at night-time or at daytime? The answer to this question it depends who we are.
- e. In the case of unbelievers, He will come in the night because they belong to the night and live in darkness. Believers are sons of the light and day. (1 Cor 16:13)
- f. Being ready for Christ's return depends on whether you are a child of the light or a child of darkness. If we are in the *light*, we will not be taken by surprise. (Luke 21:36)
 1. Salvation brings you into the light. Sanctification keeps you in the light.
- g. If we are saved our behavior must be daytime behavior.
- h. Look at verse 8, how does each of the spiritual weapons mentioned keep us alert to His coming?
- i. Some Thessalonians were afraid of the "day of the of Lord."
- j. Paul assured them that *God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation. Secondly, Jesus died for us so that we may live with Him.*
- k. The world is a tough and unfriendly place. It is easy to get hurt. We can be become weary and depressed, but God wants His church to be a community of support.
 1. *Comfort and edify one another.* (v.11)
- l. Churches are to be communities of encouragement, where love is given and received.

III. Practical Lessons

- a. Lesson #1 – If you are *in Christ* rejoice, you have nothing to fear about His return.
- b. Lesson #2 – We prepare for His return by being committed and equipped. (1 Pet 3:15)
- c. Lesson #3 – When that *day* comes, there will be no 2nd chance to fix, prepare, or repent.