

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scripture(s) for Today: 1 Thess 5:1-11 – *The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night...*

Today's Message:

"As a Thief"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we concluded chapter 4 with walking in hope; there are no prophecies to be fulfilled before Jesus Christ comes for His saints in the clouds and catches us away! Today, we will continue the truth of the Rapture from a different perspective. The Holy Spirit will clearly demonstrate how the Church will not be present on the earth for the great Tribulation Period as we will be coming with Christ at His Second Coming. This is a passage of **CONTRASTS**. As we will see, God has taken the time to make things very simple for us. The key to the learning for today is simply **BELIEVING** the word of God. WE are *the children of light – children of the day*; **THEY** are *the children of darkness – children of the night!*

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

#1. Knowledge vs. Ignorance – Paul said they had PERFECT knowledge. (1-2)

THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS

- ✓ The exact phrase is found **2** times in the KJB – **Daniel 2:21** and **5:1**
 - **Dan 2:21** – And he changeth the times and the seasons...
 - **Acts 1:7** – And he said... it is not for you to know the times or the seasons...
 - “times” – **1Chr 12:32** (children of Issachar); **Dan 1:20**; **Mt 16:1-4**; **Lk 12:56**
 - “seasons” – **Gen 1:14** (sun and moon for); **Ps 104:19** (sun and moon)

Jesus Christ said:
But of that DAY and that
HOUR knoweth no man.
Mt 25:13; Mk 13:32

NOTE Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites for not discerning *the signs of the times*, but He told His Jewish disciples they would not know *the TIMING of Christ's kingdom*.

THE DAY OF THE LORD

- ✓ The phrase is found **29** times in the KJB – **Isa 2:12; 13:6,9; 34:8; Jer 46:10; Lam 2:22; Ezek 13; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1,11,31; 3:14; Amos 5:18,20; Oba 1:15; Zeph 1:7,14-18; 2:2,3; Zech 14:1; Mal 4:5; Acts 2:20; 1Cor 5:5; 2Cor 1:14; 1Thess 5:2; 2Pet 3:10**
 - The “**day of the Lord**” begins with the church's removal until Christ reigns as King!
 - **5:1** – The *Thessalonian* believers had **PREVIOUS** knowledge of the event!
 - **5:2** – The *Thessalonian* believers had **PERFECT** knowledge of the event!

NOTE Paul's 2nd letter focuses on *that day*; this letter divides the church from those in it!

2022 VISION: *This is our time!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

#2. Expectancy vs. Surprise – Paul said unbelievers will be VERY surprised. (3-5)**PRONOUN COMPARISONS**

- ✓ The pronouns used in verses 3 through 5 prove the contrasting **EXPERIENCES!**
 - Verse 3 – relating to the phrase “as a thief in the night” of verse 2
 - For **when THEY shall say, Peace and safety...** **Dan 8:25; Ps 10:11,13; Isa56:12**
 - Then **sudden destruction cometh upon THEM...** **Isa 30:13; Lk 17:26-30**
 - **As travail upon a woman with child... and THEY shall not escape.** **Jer 30:6-7**
 - Verse 4 – proving the great contrast between *the Rapture* and *the Day of the Lord*
 - But YE..., **brethren, are NOT in darkness...**
 - That **THAT DAY should overtake you AS A THIEF.** **Jer 2:26; 1Jo 2:28**
 - Verse 5 – summarizing the great **DIVIDE** and separation between the 2 groups!
 - YE are **all the children of the LIGHT, and the children of the DAY:** **Isa 21:11**
 - WE are **not of the NIGHT, nor of DARKNESS.** **Gen 46:2; Job 4:13; Mt 14:25**

Biblical Usage:
“AS TRAVAIL”
OT uses to point to the
time of Jacob’s trouble...
the Great Tribulation!

NOTE The DAY OF THE LORD is going to SHOCK THE WORLD – then SUDDEN destruction!

#3. Soberness vs. Drunkenness – Paul charged them to be SOBER minded. (6-8)**PREPARING TO MEET THE LORD**

- ✓ More pronouns contrasted to prove how we are **DIFFERENT** in verses 6 through 8 ...
 - Verse 6, 8 – As children of LIGHT and **of the day... US...**
 - Therefore let US **not sleep, as do others; but let US watch and BE SOBER**
 - But let US who are **of the day BE SOBER...** **1Pet 4:7** (the end of all things is near!)
 - Putting on the **breastplate of faith and love... helmet, the hope of salvation.**
 - Verse 7 – As children of DARKNESS and **of the night... THEY...**
 - For **THEY that sleep sleep in the night; and THEY... are drunken in the night.**

Biblical Usage:
“SOBER”
12 times in KJB (NT)
2Cor 5:13 (for your cause);
1Tim 3:2,11; Titus 1:8; 2:2,
4,6; 1Pet 1:13; 4:7; 5:8

NOTE Sober up Church! When caught up, we will then be at Judgment Seat of Christ!

#4. Salvation and Judgment – God has not appointed US to WRATH! (9-11)**TRIBULATION vs. THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

- ✓ We are to *comfort* and *encourage* one another with these blessed truths!
 - **ALL** Christians **suffer tribulation in the world.** **Jn 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2Tim 3:12**
 - **NO** Church-Age Christian will **go through THE GREAT TRIBULATION!** **Mt 24:21,29**

NOTE Paul uses the same phrase from 4:18! This is encouraging! Why be depressed??

B. The Application (How will you apply this truth to your life?)**1. The word of God says now is not the time for YOU to be SLEEPING. Rom 13:11**

QUESTION What are you going to do with the truth God revealed to you today? Repent.

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