

The bible doesn't mention anything about the church going thru the tribulation period.

- But it is clear that it will bring Israel to repentance.

Isa 26:21

21 the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;

The first reason we will not go thru the tribulation is because

- we are children of light and children of the day,
- we're not of darkness nor of the night.

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day (of the Lord) should overtake you as a thief.

John 12:35

35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.

If you're a Christian, not by name only,

- then you're not in darkness.

Rom 13:11-14

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

As Christians we have nothing in common with darkness.

In the OT we have some examples of God's swift judgement. Since He judged then, He will certainly judge in the future.

Aaron's two sons, Nadab and Abihu

- were struck dead for presenting
- unauthorized offerings in the early days
- of the tabernacles use, Lev 10:1-2.

Then I think of Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas.

1 Sam 2:34

34 Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them.

When Eli heard the news he fell backward from his seat,

- broke his neck and died.

The wife of Phinehas was pregnant,

- when she heard of her husband's death
- she went into labor and died as well.

God is a just God and He will judge the wicked world one day.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Woman caught in adultery:

Jesus told her accusers, whoever is without sin to cast the first stone.

- They all left and Jesus was left alone with the woman.

John 8:12

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

This is the second of seven "I AM" declarations of Jesus declared in the book of John.

- In declaring Himself to be the light of the world,
- He was claiming that He is the exclusive source of spiritual light.

The unbeliever on the other hand doesn't seek Him.

John 1:5

5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 3:19-20

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness (sin) rather than light (righteousness), because their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Jesus speaking to Nicodemus,

John 3:18-20

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For

everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Both Paul and Jesus used the same word for darkness.

Paul said we are not of the night nor of darkness

- and

Jesus said men loved darkness rather than light.

Those living for Him, living in the light,

- will not face the day of the Lord.

Amos 5:18-20

18 What sorrow awaits you who say,  
"If only the day of the Lord were here!"

You have no idea what you are wishing for.

That day will bring darkness, not light.

19 In that day you will be like a man who runs from a lion—  
only to meet a bear.

Escaping from the bear, he leans his hand against a wall in his house—  
and he's bitten by a snake.

20 Yes, the day of the Lord will be dark and hopeless,  
without a ray of joy or hope.

Speaking of the day of the Lord,

- the church is not mentioned during the tribulation period
- in the book of Revelation, chapters 6-19.

In the book of Revelation, chapters 2 & 3 speak of the churches.

Rev 3:10

10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

In chapter 4 of Revelation

- we read of the church residing in the throne room of heaven
- implying the rapture has taken place
- sometime between chapters 3 & 4.

In chapter 5 the church is in heaven.

- The church isn't seen again until chapter 20
- when we return to rule with Christ for 1000 years.

While we're in heaven during the tribulation

- we will enjoy the marriage supper of the lamb
- and we will stand before the BEMA seat of Christ
- to receive our rewards.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul said,

Rom 13:12-13

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

In chapter 4 he used it to describe the death of the believer.

In this section of chapter 5 sleep does not mean death.

- It means moral indifference
- and carelessness about spiritual things.

Jesus used the word with this meaning in mind in Mark 13.

We have to learn to be awake and sober.

Matt 24:42

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Luke 12:35-37

35 "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.

Jesus said, you're either for me or against me. Paul says, don't sleep as others do.

We are to be alert spiritually.

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

Paul has two groups in mind,

- one was drunk and asleep,
- while the other group was awake and alert.

The world today thinks it's us, the Christians who are drunk and crazy.

1 John 2:16-17

16 For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 Thess 5:8

put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

In Eph 6 Paul says to put on the breastplate of righteousness and he says to take the helmet of salvation.

We are to be expecting Jesus by faith.

The blessed hope of our salvation lies in the Lord's return.

Luke 12:16-20

16 "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

Salvation is the future hope of glory.

- Salvation has 3 tenses, past, present and future.

We've been justified in the past,

- in the present we are being sanctified
- and in the future we will be glorified.

Another reason we will not go thru the tribulation Paul says,

9 For God did not appoint (to cause to experience) us to wrath (or-gay, punishment, anger, vengeance), but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

In 1 Thess Paul was speaking about his relationship to the church and how the church had turned from serving idols to serve the living and true God,

1 Thess 1:10

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

This word "deliver or rescue" means

- to deliver or to draw to oneself.

The word “from” denotes

- separation of time and distance.

So the Lord will draw us to Himself to distance us

- from the time and place of the wrath to come.

Here in verse 9 Paul says that God did not appoint us to wrath and in Rev 3:10 the Lord promised to keep us from the “hour of trial” that’s coming upon the whole world.

A different Greek word for the word “from” is used there.

- It means out of the place, time,
- or cause of the event being referenced.

Paul is speaking of the day of the Lord in verse 9.

Notice Paul says that God did not appoint us to wrath.

- He was referring to the church.

The Jews said to Pilate, His blood be on us and on our children.

The Jews have not repented nationally

- for their crime at Calvary.

So we know that the time of Jacobs trouble (Jer 30:7) awaits them,

- the time Jesus calls the great tribulation (Matt 24:15-22).

Rom 5:9

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Wrath: (or-gay) punishment, anger, vengeance.

10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep (alive or dead), we should live together with Him.

This is difficult for us to imagine because

- we don’t often think we’re going to die soon
- or even that the Lord will return very soon.

11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Paul addressed the church more than 60 times as brethren.

1 Thess 5:12-22

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

What goes thru your mind when you think of admonishing?

- Admonishing is warning with instruction
- for the purpose of correcting.

This was a church that had been told to be quiet,

- mind their own business and get to work.

So Paul is addressing the issue of how people responded to God's ordained leadership.

Paul said to a young Timothy,

2 Tim 4:2-5

2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (Pastors are to be diligent in all of these areas Paul mentioned. Why!) 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Be faithful in what the Lord calls you to.

Titus 2 tells older people to teach the younger people.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

Unruly people are often careless and out of line.

Children need direction, they need instruction in their life.

So Paul says to warn those in the church who are unruly,

- those who want to beat to their own drum.

We are also to comfort the fainthearted, the fearful.

At times, in a home with multiple children,

- there may be one that wants to give up on everything.
- They need encouragement,

The Greek word for comfort is comprised of two words, "para - near" and "muthos - speech."

Paul said to the Corinthians,

1 Cor 13:11

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

We are to come down to a child's level

- and speak to them at a level they understand.

Finally, he says to be patient with all.

1 Thess 2:11

11 ~~as you know how we~~ exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,

15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

Solomon said:

Prov 10:12

12 Hatred stirs up strife,

But love covers all sins.

1 Thes 5:16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Probably the most important thing we can be doing as a fellowship

- is to be in prayer.

James said the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

God knows what we need, and He responds even when we're silent.

19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thess 5:23-28

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.



27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.