

Today we begin our conclusion of 1 Thessalonians. The letter has touched on many subjects:

Chapter 1 – How the Thessalonians were great examples to those in Macedonia and Achai.

Chapter 2 – How the Apostles motivation towards them was of love and concern.

Chapter 3 – How the Apostle Paul received a great report from Timothy and how he sent Timothy there to encourage and establish their faith.

Chapter 4 – How we are called to live a Holy life for God, sanctified for Him, and not to sorrow when those who die ahead of us, because we have the promise of resurrection.

We concluded Chapter 4 with the understanding that the event of the resurrection and rapture found in verses 13-18 is at the end of the tribulation. This is further confirmed with Chapter 5...

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. (2) For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the

Lord so comes as a thief in the night. (3) For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (4) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. (5) You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. (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. (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. (9) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. (11) Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

The Apostle Paul in the previous chapter spoke about a time when we would be raptured. Last week, I believe, we established through scripture and Ante-Nicene writings that that day

will happen at the end of the tribulation. The Apostle continues his writing to the Church by stating:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-28 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. (2) For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

A) We are told that the event found in 1 Thessalonians 4 is call the “day of the Lord” and that this day “comes as a thief in the night.” These words are an echo to a conclusion found in Matthew 24:42-44 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

(43) But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. (44) Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Peter also echoes what our Lord Jesus and Apostle Paul writes:

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

kat-ak-ah'ee-o

From G2596 and G2545; to burn down (to the ground), that is, consume wholly:

The Apostle Peter goes so far as to stating that on that day, the world will be destroyed. Again, the same sentiments found in the order of events of the end times spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21.

The Apostle John writing the words of Jesus to the Churches states also... Revelation 3:3  
Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Revelation 16:15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his

garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

The evidence is very conclusive that the event in which the Lord returns is called the "day of the Lord," and that to some He will come as a "thief in the night" and on that day the Christians dead and alive will be gathered to Christ, and the world destroyed.

Concerning this same matter, the Apostle Paul in his second letter brings up the subject again to the Church because there were reports that Christ had already returned and raptured people.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, (2) not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

(3) Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first,

and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, (4) who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped,

so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

(5) Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

This is exactly in the timeline, that our Lord spoke of in Matthew 24:

Matthew 24:10-13 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. (11) Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (12) And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. **(The Falling Away)** (13) But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 24:15 "Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

**(The man of sin is revealed)**

The Apostle Paul when writing to the Corinthian Church on this event states:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— (52) in a moment, in the

twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

We read this in Revelation:

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded (TRUMPET): And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" Revelation 11:18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

This is again the proper exegesis to the subject of Christ return. There will be a day when Christ will return. We look for His second advent.

Hippolytus writes: For through the **Scriptures** we are instructed in two advents of the Christ and Saviour. And the first after the flesh was in humiliation, because He was manifested in

lowly estate. So then His second advent is declared to be in **glory**; for He comes from heaven with power, and **angels**, and the **glory** of His Father.

Hebrews 9:27-28 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (28) so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Paul further writes,

1 Thessalonians 5: (3) For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

A) The Apostle points to the fact that people will think Peace and safety, then sudden destruction will come upon them and they will not escape.

I want to reiterate that the Apostle is not presenting His own theology, but I believe he has in his possession the Gospel of Matthew.

This is why he knows people will think they are safe.



Matthew 24:36-39 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. (37) But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (38) For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, (39) and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Many people ask, how will that be if the whole world is in mayhem during the tribulation. I want you to be very careful not to get caught up with an end of the world movie scene...

What will happen is that at the end the Anti-Christ will have killed the 2 witnesses. The bible says,

Revelation 11:3-14 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." (4) These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. (5) And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and

devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

(6) These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. (7) When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. (8) And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. (9) Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. (10) And those who **dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another**, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. (11) Now after the three-and-a-half days the **breath of life from God entered them**, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. (12) And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come

up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. (13) In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. **In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.** (14) The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly. (7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet)

It is during this time people will feel safe and secure but then the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet will sound and it is finished.

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Revelation 11:18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

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We conclude with the thief in the night issue and not knowing the day or hour issue. I believe the Apostle says it very clearly to us:

1 Thessalonians 5:(4) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. (5) You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. (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. (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. (9) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. (11) Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

A) So to the world He will come as a thief in the night and unexpectedly, to us, not.

B) Another verse that needs to be address is “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

While it is true God did not “appoint” us to wrath. Which the correct word is lay or put us to wrath, we do experience just like every other person in the Bible and in Church History, the collateral damage of God’s wrath on this earth. As a matter of fact, God’s judgement on Adam and Eve are experienced by us today in our flesh and in this dying world.

God did not appoint Adam and Eve to wrath but had to administer punishment and judgement when they sinned. It was not God’s intention or desire to do so. Noah, Lot, and many of the prophets had to live in Kingdoms that disobeyed God, had to be prisoners and exiles like Daniel, Jeremiah, and such. Yet we know that God knows how to preserve the those who are His while judging the world.

2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Yet to properly understand what the Apostle means when He says, God did not appoint us to wrath is to further complete the verse, but to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ.

This second part tells us the wrath that the Apostle is speaking of is the condemnation that will befall all those who do not believe. HELL. It is not the tribulation he is referring to. While the tribulation is a wrath of God, the full wrath of God is found at the end.

Romans 2:5-8 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, (6) who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS": (7) eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; (8) but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath.

Again, the second part confirms this by saying obtaining salvation. To say otherwise is to believe that Jesus Christ saves us from all

tribulation and mayhems of the world. This is a very incorrect and erroneous understanding of the text. I believe it belittles what Christ truly did for us on the cross and it gwacks at all those Christians who died brutal deaths for the sake of the gospel and during Christ various judgments on this world.