

11/6/99

1Thessalonians 5:1-11

We come to the closing chapter of the Thessalonians epistle. What a powerful letter to the believer having as its heartbeat the coming of Christ for His Church.

- Ch. 1 His coming in relation to salvation.
- Ch. 2 His coming in relation to service.
- Ch. 3 His coming in relation to sanctification.
- Ch. 4 His coming in relation to resurrection.
- Ch. 5 His coming in relation to God's wrath.

Paul has given clear information regarding their loved ones who have died and now he moves to exhort the living, regarding the specific period of God's wrath that is to come on the earth.

5:1-3 That Day of The Lord.

- 5:1** The believer is not to be concerned.
- 1) The believer is not to be concerned with the exact date of the Lord's Day, which is also the date of the Rapture.
 - a) The word times "chronon" means time in running order.
 - 1) The word is used for
 - 2) We get our word chronology or chronological.

- b) The word seasons "kairo" means a definite space of time a set time prescribed.
 - 1) Jesus used the word for fig season. Mk. 11:13
 - 2) Paul used it the birth of Jesus, The fulness of time "kairo". Gal. 4:4
 - 3) The apostles after the resurrection asked Jesus, "Lord, will you at this time "chronos" restore again the Kingdom to Israel?" And Jesus said, "It is not for you to know the times "chronos" or seasons "kairos", which the Father hath put in his own power." Acts 1:6-7 (it didn't concern them, for they were the church, who would return with Him to set up the Kingdom.
- 2) The Thessalonians did not need Paul to write and tell them about that day.
 - a) He had told them of His return from heaven and the believer's waiting to be delivered from the wrath to come. 1:10
 - b) He had told them His coming with all His saints. 1Thess. 3:13; 4:14
 - c) He told them the living would be caught "harpozo" up to the clouds to meet their dead loved ones. 1Thess. 4:17

5:2 The Thessalonians knew how that day would come.

- 1) They knew the Day of the Lord, would come as a thief in the night.
 - a) Paul had told them, deliver them from the wrath to come. 1Thess. 1:10; 5:9
 - b) The Day of the Lord, is an Old Testament expression and major theme. Is. 2:12; 13:6-11; Jer. 30:7; Amos 5:18; Zach. 1:14-18
 - * Jesus said, But of the day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Matt. 24:36
- 2) That day is an event that will take the world as a thief in the night, and they already knew that.
 - a) Jesus used the expression. Matt. 24:43; Lk. 12:39; 2Pet. 3:10
 - b) The phrase is a strong warning b Peter to all, of being ready and not sleeping in the New Testament. 2Pet. 3:10
 - c) The phrase is used by Jesus to warn the churches of their readiness. Rev. 3:3 Sardis. Rev. 3:10 the hour.
- 3) The word perfectly “akribos” means accurately, they knew it would take place as a thief!
 - * Paul had told them other things that had to take place before the day would come. it would take place

because they knew he didn't know.
2Thess. 2:3-5

- 5:3** Characteristics of this period is false peace.
- 1) Peace and safety, implying deception. Amos 5:18, 19; Mic. 3:5-11
 - * Take heed let no man deceive you. Matt. 24:46
 - 2) Sudden destruction, through the Anti-christ. Dan. 9:27
 - a) Unprepared, as a woman in travail, coming unexpectedly. Is. 13:8-9; Jer. 4:31; Hos. 13:13; Mic. 4:9; Lk. 21:34; 2Pet. 3:1-10
 - b) The judgments of God is certain. Is. 13:8; Jer. 4:31; Matt. 24:8
 - c) The judgments of God will come repeatedly and more frequent with intensity, as a woman’s pains.
 - 3) They shall not escape eternal destruction from the presence of the Lord. 2Thess. 1:9
 - 6) This period is described in the Old and New Testaments as:
 - a) Wrath, judgment, indignation, trouble, darkness, punishment, distress, destruction, time of heathen, tribulation, and great tribulation.
 - b) It is distinctly called Jacob's trouble in Jer. 30:7

- c) It is a time of God 's judgment on Israel for rejecting her Messiah. Lk. 19:42; Matt. 23:37-39
 * Two of every three Jews will die. Zach. 13:9

5:4-7 The People and the Day of the Lord.

5:4 The believer sphere of life.

- 1) “But you, brethren are not in darkness”, marking a strong contrast to the unbeliever. 2Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:8
- 2) The state of darkness represents sin, ignorance and a life-style of that is against the light of God’s word, which the believer is not ignorant to this day.
 - a) Jesus calls us friends, not servants, because he has made all things known to us. Jn. 15:14-15
 - b) The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light. Rom. 13:12

5:5 The believers nature.

- 1) We are Light in the Lord. Eph. 5:8
- 2) We are the light of the world. Matt. 5:14
- 3) We are to believe in the light, Jesus, that we be children of the light. Jn. 12:36
- 4) Light of glorious gospel. 2Cor.. 4:4

- * He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love. Col. 1:13

- 5) Sons of God is our relationship by our spiritual bith, through grace and faith. Eph. 2:8-9

5:6 The believers responsibility.

- 1) The conclusion is clear and simple, let us not sleep as others do, the unbeliever.
 - a) The metaphor is used for indifference and unawareness to spiritual realities.
 - b) If the possibility were not really the exhortation would be worthless.
- 2) The beleiver is a soldier on alert, born into warfare, knowing the enemy is ever present but ever active.
 - a) Let us watch, the word watch is a key word in the New Testament.

* Watch ye therefore and pra always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. Lk. 21:36
 - b) The five foolish virgins were not watching. Matt. 25:1-13
 - a) There is a set day
 - b) There is a given opportunity.
 - c) There is proper preparation. (occupy)

- 3) Let us be sober, referring to a clear mind, alert, not intoxicated with the world.

2Tim. 4:5

- a) The contrast is to wine that clouds one's mind. vs. 7
 b) Peter tells us, "Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary..". 1Pet. 5:8
 c) Paul tells the Ephesians, "Be filled with the Holy Spirit..." Eph. 5:18

5:7 The nature of the unbeliever.

- 1) To sleep means to be unaware or concerned.
 2) To get drunk and to be drunk means they do not believe the coming of God.
 * As the days of Noah. Matt. 24:37-44;
Lk. 17:26-30

5:8-11 **The Comfort of the believer regarding the Day of the Lord.**

5:8 The believers preparedness of the believer.

- 1) The believer is to be sober.
 * The word "but" emphasizes the contrast. vs. 1, 4, 8
 2) The believer is to putting on the Breastplate of faith and love, continuously.
 * It is a defensive armour. "Is. 59:17"
 a) Faith refers to "faith in Christ".

- 1)) Paul mentions the breastplate of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. 2Cor. 6:7

- 2)) The breastplate protects our heart, the intellect, emotions and the will.
 * Col. 2:2 minds

- b) Love refers for God first then for fellow man by yielding to God.

- 3) The believer is to be putting on a helmet, the hope of salvation. Is. 59:17, Eph. 6:17

- a) The weapons not carnal but mighty through God. 2Cor. 10:4-5

- b) Faith, hope and love, the constant triad. 1Thess. 1:3; 1Cor. 13

5:9 The reason for such council.

- 1) Here lies the distinction from the throne of God why we will be caught up in the air. 4:17

- 2) The church is not appointed to wrath. 1Thess. 1:10; 2Thess. 1:8-10

- a) The time of God's wrath. Rev. 6-18

- b) The great day of God's wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? Rev. 6:17

- c) Much more than, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. Rom. 5:9

5:10 The grounds for our deliverance.

- 1) He died for our propitiation. 1Jn. 2:2
- 2) The Father sent his Son to condemn sin in the flesh. Rom. 8:3
- 3) He who knew no sin... 2Cor. 5:21
- 2) Whether we wake or sleep, whether we die before he returns or are alive, we are His.
 - a) The word sleep speaks of indifference and lax in watching regarding God's judgment. vs. 6
 - b) to natural sleep. vs. 7
 - c) To death. vs. 10
 - * Behold what manner of love... 1Jn. 3:1-3

5:11 The purpose of the exhortation.

Wherefore looks back to what preceeds.

- 1) Comfort means encourage, literally strengthen.
 - a) 1Thess. 4:18 concerning the dead in Christ
 - b) 1Thess. 5:11 we will not be here for wrath and judgmente.
- 2) Eedify means, to build up.