

**A Scared World Needs a FEARLESS CHURCH**  
**Wednesday September 12, 2018**

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**1Thessalonians 5:1-11** Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly (vv. 2-3):** remember, Paul mentioned in chapter 4 that he got his understanding of end times "from the Lord."

The idea of the sudden Parousia of Christ was taught by Jesus.

**Matthew 24:27** For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

**While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly (v. 3):** the point here is that, when Christ suddenly returns, the unprepared will be complacent and engaged in their usual routines.

**Matthew 24:38-42** For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>42</sup> "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

**Will be taken (Matt 24:41):** many people think that the "taken" refers to believers caught up to be with the Lord at his *Parousia*, leaving the unbelievers behind (e.g. "Left Behind"). However, in the context of the passage—following the example of Noah--the people taken away were (are) the unrighteous. So, the unrighteous are taken away to judgment.

**So then...let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope (vv. 6 & 9):** Paul's instruction to the Christian reader is to be sober minded by putting on the three theological virtues (faith, hope and love).

**Sober minded** ("sobriety"): "...self-government or self-control, the foundation of a strong godly life."

**John W. Ritenbaugh in the Forerunner Commentary writes:**

“A person who has self-mastery is even-handed, and his passions are under control. He makes proper use of his drives and desires, and his manner of life is not one of extremes.”

**Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

While there is no such thing in the Bible as a “Spirit-controlled life”, there is Spirit empowered self-control.

**For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation (v. 9):** Paul is here referring to salvation and wrath as the end result after Christ’s return.

**He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him (v. 10):** here Paul refers to Christ’s grand purpose; namely, whether we are alive or dead, He will unite us with Himself. Hence, we have a future hope.

**Therefore encourage one another and build each other up (v. 11):** Paul had in mind that readers would know the truths he was teaching and use them to encourage and edify fellow believers. The question to consider is, if we don’t know these truths, how effective can we be at encouraging others?

**1Thessalonians 5:12-13 NIV** *Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

**Acknowledge those...hold them in the highest regard (v. 12):** the NIV has chosen to translate v. 12 in a way that modern secularized Christians can more easily accept. They have scrubbed the verse of its objectionable expression of divine hierarchy, by which God delegates His authority.

**1Thessalonians 5:12 NKJV** *And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,*

**Because of their work (v. 13):** thinking from a proper biblical and hierarchical perspective, Paul does not have in mind the “difficulty” or “quantity” of pastoral work. He is referring to the importance of pastoral work.

It is the teaching of the truth that initiates the transformation of individuals, groups and societies.

**1Timothy 2:3-7** *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the **truth**. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, <sup>7</sup> for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the **truth** in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and **truth**.*