

# 1 Thessalonians 5

Jesus

## I. Imminent Return Watch

1 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.**

- **Day of the Lord:** Seen year period of God's Wrath on Earth beginning w/ Rapture

**I told you when I was with you... I don't know the date of the Rapture**

**Mark 13:28** "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So you also, when you see these things happening, **know that it is near—at the doors!** <sup>30</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, this **generation will by no means pass away** till all these things take place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. <sup>32</sup> "But **of that day and hour** no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> **Take heed, watch and pray;** for you do not know when the time is. <sup>34</sup> *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to **watch.** <sup>35</sup> **Watch** therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup> lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you, I say to all: **Watch!**" [vv32-36 Watch 3x]

- No one knows the day/We should discern signs
  1. **Israel in Land:** That's the generation
  2. **World seemingly** on brink of major peace treaty...

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.** [So... somebody *will* escape]

- **Sudden Destruction** Beginning of Sorrows; i.e., AC, War, Famine, Death
- **Labor Pains** Incrementally harder and more severe judgments

Sinful Unrepentant world will not escape God's Wrath  
**Thessalonians were waiting for their escape...**

- Wrath is looming for every person born in sin

**John 3:36** He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the **wrath of God abides on him.**"

Something needed to happen for God's wrath toward our sin to be satisfied

- **We have been** delivered from God's wrath Jesus took our sin
- **We will be** delivered from God's wrath Jesus takes us home

**No Double Jeopardy:** Jesus already paid for our crimes

You guys are escapists? Why would God pour out His wrath on the Bride of His only

begotten Son...a Son who suffered/died that He might be with her? We are simply going home. [NJC]

**1 Thessalonians 1:10** [Turned to God to serve Him] ... and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath to come.**

- **Wrath still looms for all who do not believe:** They shall not escape yet...
- **God has always/will always** deliver His people from His wrath

**2 Peter 2:6** [God turned...] the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and **delivered righteous Lot**, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— 9 then **the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,**

- **World will be taken by surprise:** AI, Global agenda, moving forward species etc...

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...

Paul writes to a church filled w/both believers/make-believers

**2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves as to whether you **are in the faith**. Test yourselves.

- **Brethren:** Sons of Light are those who believe in Jesus/Walk in Light

**John 12:36** ... believe in the light, that you may become **sons of light**

**Romans 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**.

**Ephesians 5:8** [Be who you are] ...you were **once darkness**, but **now you are light in the Lord**. Walk as children of light...

**Son of Light or Son of Darkness? Which side do we gravitate to?**

**Pick a side:** Too late when the sky opens

**1 John 1:5b...** **God is light** and in Him is **no darkness at all**. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and **walk in darkness**, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we **walk in the light as He is in the light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- **Parable of Ten Virgins**

1. All waiting for Bridegroom
2. All w/Lamps/Only 5 w/Oil [Holy Spirit/Saved]

## Put off getting ready till it was too late...

**Matthew 20:10** And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "**Watch therefore**, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

**How do we want to be found when Jesus comes? Are we sons of Light?**

We should be found Watching not Sleeping...Sober not Drunk

- **Watch**

**Luke 12:35** "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." <sup>41</sup> Then Peter said to Him, "**Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?**" <sup>42</sup> And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of food in due season? <sup>43</sup> Blessed *is* that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. <sup>44</sup> Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. <sup>45</sup> But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, <sup>46</sup> the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers. <sup>47</sup> And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. <sup>48</sup> But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

**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."

We don't want to be startled/ashamed when He comes...

- **Watch:** Be ready to meet Jesus
- **Sober** [Aware of the urgency of the times/Getting serious]

1. **Sons of Issachar** Understood the times and what to do
2. **Mordecai of Esther** You were born for such a time as this

**Luke 21:34** ... take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and **that Day come on you unexpectedly**.

**1 Peter 5:8** **Be sober, be vigilant;** because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

## How do we want to be found when Jesus comes?

Sons of Light will be found Watching not Sleeping...Sober not Drunk

**8b... put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.**

- **Faith/Hope/Love as Armor while we wait as watchful soldiers**
  1. **Faith:** Saved by faith. Walk by Faith. Secure in the Object of our faith
  2. **Love:** Loving one another/Not letting love grow cold for unsaved
  3. **Hope:** Hope of Salvation: Jesus **delivering us from wrath to glory....**

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.

**The Day of the Lord is the Day of God's Wrath...We are not appointed to Wrath**

**Q.** What did Jesus mean It is finished? **A.** Payment in full for our sins is complete. Forever.

- **Alive or Dead:** We will all live together with Him

11 Therefore **comfort each other** [c.f. 1 Thes. 4:18] and **edify one another, just as you also are doing.**

- **Comfort**      Come along side w/Hope      Soon w/Jesus forever
- **Edify**        Build up/Restore                      So, you can have victory today

**Maranatha: Come O Lord!**

**Revelation 22:17** And the **Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"** And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely... **"Surely I am coming quickly."** Amen. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

## SUMMARY Imminent Return

- **Chapter 1: Faithful Teaching**
  1. Paul 3 weeks
  2. Taught major doctrines
  3. Received as Word of God/Much affliction/Joy in Holy Spirit
  4. Commended: Turned Idols to Living God...Jesus who **delivers from wrath to come**
- **Chapter 2: Faithful Pastoring**
  1. Enemies of God slander Paul/Word
  2. Paul the God pleaser/Motives pure
  3. Mother: Nurturing/Nourishing
  4. Father: Exhorting/Persuading/Challenging/Charging/longing for them
- **Chapter 3: Growth in Faithful Exhortation**
  1. Concerned devil tempted to retreat from faith
  2. Sends Tim to Establish/Encourage
  3. Tim brings Good News: They made it
  4. Paul: Stand fast/Continue to abound in love

- **Chapter 4: Instructions/Warning/Walking with/Pleasing God**
  1. The Will and Command of God: Abstain from Sexual Immorality
  2. Adultery/Fornication/Homosexuality/Pornography
  3. Possess your Body: Flesh subservient to Spirit
  4. Quiet life: Not a busybody/Working w/hands
- **Chapter 5: Maranatha Pt 1 Rapture of the Bride**

### **How do we live knowing Jesus could return any time?**

- **Keep living life** as if it will be 100 years: Marriage, children, invest, prepare
- **Soberly Watch** knowing it could be today: Live as children of the Light

Ch. 5Pt 2 Paul concludes w/various commands  
**Things new believers need to know**

## **II. Various Exhortations Humble Leadership**

**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...**

- **Recognize/Estimate Leaders** each w/3-fold function
  1. **Laboring among you** Humbly working unto Lord
  2. **Authority over you** Humbly leading under the Lord
  3. **Admonishment to you** Humble correction based on the Word of the Lord
- **Esteem them very highly...**

**1 Timothy 5:17** Let the elders who rule well be **counted worthy of double honor,** especially those who **labor in the word and doctrine.**

- **IOW's:** Make their job easier not harder

**Hebrews 13:7 Remember those who rule over you,** who have spoken the word of God to you, whose **faith follow,** considering the outcome of their conduct... **17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive,** for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

- **Some will despise authority** thus Paul adds...

**13b... Be at peace among yourselves.**

**First Red Flag new visitors?** Despise/Resent God-given Authority  
*If I were running the Church...*

- **Problem?** No man should be running the church

Paul continues to address what he absolutely knows will happen

**14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly...**

- **Unruly:** gr. *ataktos* disorderly, out of ranks [often so of soldiers] irregular, inordinate, immoderate pleasures deviating from the prescribed order or rule

### Later a problem in Thessalonica...

**2 Thessalonians 3:6** But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly** and not according to the tradition which he received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you... **11** For we hear that **there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.**

### To the self-willed... You are out of order/line!

- **Note/Warn** the guy/gal that wants to be noticed...

**Luke 11:43** Woe to you Pharisees! For you **love the best seats** [lit. places of honor] in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

**Luke 14:7** So He told a parable to those who were invited, when **He noted how they chose the best places**, saying to them: 8 "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; 9 and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with **shame to take the lowest place.** 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. 11 **For whoever exalts himself will be humbled** [put down], and he who humbles himself will be exalted." 12 Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. 14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

- Pride will be noticed immediately in healthy church
- Anyone pushing way into position...immediately disqualified

### God raises up...God puts down

**Psalms 75:6** For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. 7 But God is the Judge: **He puts down one, And exalts another.**

Not always the tallest best looking...definitely not prideful/arrogant

**1 Samuel 16:7** ... Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but **the Lord looks at the heart.**"

**Whoever exalts himself will be humbled  
He who humbles himself will be exalted**

- God passes by the prideful to hang out with the humble

**Isaiah 57:15** For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

- **Warn those who don't stay in their lane**

**14b... comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.**

- **Seek out those who need you...**

1. Those about to faint                      **Comfort them**
2. Those falling down                      **Hold them up**

- **How do you know? Look**

**Be Patient with Everyone  
Even those who seek to get a reaction from you...**

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

**Romans 12:16** Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but **associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.** 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 **Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink;** For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

- **Key to not being overcome by evil?** Repay with good and go to sleep

**Pride leads to our being constantly offended  
Longing for our own happiness is what makes us fight**

**James 4:4** Where do wars and fights come from among you? **Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?** 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war... **6** But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." **10...Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.** 11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren.

**Godly Humility fixes all relationship problems  
Then we are free to focus on God's goodness rather than us**

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

**God's will for our lives: Fill our entire day with three things**

## Rejoicing in God's Goodness/Praying/Giving thanks for God's Blessing

**Philippians 4:1** Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. <sup>2</sup>I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life. [Godly Humility fixes all Relationship problems] <sup>4</sup>**Rejoice in the Lord always.** Again I will say, **rejoice!** <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything **by prayer** and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- **I don't know what God's will is for my life?**

Always rejoice/Always Pray/Always give thanks  
**This is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you**

- **Result**

1. Peace of God
2. Protection of God: Hearts [Feelings] and Minds [Thoughts]

**Benefits of obeying God:** Fear of God means obeying God even when no one is looking. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him. Those that fear Him obey Him. Thus, those that obey Him are protected by Him and at perfect peace with Him. [NJC]

- **Rejoice/Pray/Give thanks always;** i.e., Regardless of circumstance

## 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies.

- **Quench:** Throw wet blanket on a flame

We believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit manifested in an orderly manner

- One of those Spiritual Gifts is **prophecy....**

**1 Corinthians 14:1** Pursue love, and **desire spiritual gifts**, but **especially that you may prophesy...**

- God speaking to a person through another person never contrary to the Word
- **Pastors have the gift of Prophecy: Forth-tell** rather than foretell
- 

**Hebrews 1:1** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son**

- **OT:** Spoke through OT prophets
- **NT:** Speaks through us by His Son. IOW's no new revelation

If it's true it's not new and if it new it's not true. Period.  
**Allow the gifts of the Spirit but test for counterfeits...**



## 21 Test all things...

**1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many **false prophets** have gone out into the world.

- **Test how?** Word of God
- E.g., Tongues in NT is always man **praising God** never God's speaking to man

## 21b... hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

Once you Test all things by the Word of God

- **Hold Fast:** Grab/Don't let go of what God's Word says is good...**e.g.** How to think

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy—meditate on these things.**

- Hold fast to what is good
- **Abstain** from every form of evil

**IOW's Don't even give the appearance of evil**

Be blameless to your own hurt/IOW's whatever it takes...

### SUMMARY Various Exhortations

## III. Blessing and Admonition

23 Now may the **God of peace Himself sanctify you** completely

Paul concludes with the Purpose of this Letter  
**They are ready to meet Jesus**

- **Sanctified:** Completely set apart to from sin/to the Lord
  1. Spirit convicts us of sin
  2. Spirit gives us power over sin
  3. Our part? Yield to His Spirit
- **Sanctified:** Spirit shows us the Garbage/Empowers us to throw it away

**2 Chronicles 29:5** [Hezekiah's reform] "Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and **carry out the rubbish** from the holy place.

**23b...** and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- **Spirit/Soul/Body:** Entire being blameless **when Jesus comes?**

The emphasis here is on completely: "The adjective [holoeleis], occurring only here in the New Testament, is a compound of holos, 'whole, entire,' and telos, 'end.' Its basic connotation is 'wholly attaining the end, reaching the intended goal,' hence has the force of no part being left unreached." [Hiebert]

## Q. How do I do that? A. You don't.

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

- God called us. We answered. **He will finish the work**

**Philippians 1:6** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...

**1 Corinthians 1:8** [Jesus]...will confirm you to the end, that you may be **blameless in the day** of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 **God is faithful**, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- I fall all the time

**2 Timothy 2:13** If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

**Jude 1:1** Now to Him who is able to **keep you from stumbling**, And to **present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 [Who?] God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

God called us. We answered. **He will finish the work**

**Let's not make it more difficult for Him and us... How much God do you want?**

25 Brethren, **pray for us.**

- **Paul's humility:** Umbrella Prayer on way to Jerusalem/Rome. Pray for Pastors

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.**

- Not just Thessalonica but every church

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

**1 Thessalonians 1:1b...** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul begins/ends with Grace. Saved by Grace. Sanctified by Grace.  
Established by Grace and Preserved by Grace at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

## **SUMMARY Blessing and Admonition**

