

“Jesus Day”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A couple of pastors were standing by the side of the road holding up signs that said, "The End is Near! Turn around now before it's too late!" They held up the signs to each passing car. The first driver drove by and yelled, "Leave us alone you religious fanatics!". From around the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash. "Do you think," said one pastor to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says, 'Bridge Out' instead?"

We are preparing for Jesus Day, officially known as “The Day of the Lord”

The Day of the Lord is a time when Jesus will return to deliver those who are saved, and to judge all wickedness and injustice. This is God’s final plan to make the world right and good again. Man has had his day, and God will have His.

Because things can’t go on like this forever.

The important thing for us is making sure we are on the right side when this day comes. We want to make sure that we have a good testimony for the end times.

JESUS DAY: IT’S GOING TO HAPPEN SUDDENLY...SO WE NEED TO LIVE SOBERLY...BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN SAVED SECURELY.

1. IT’S GOING TO HAPPEN SUDDENLY... (1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-4)

A. You know He is coming soon, and can see the signs of the times, but the exact timing is none of your business (Verse 1)

- i. Times and seasons refers to the ages (chronōn) and events (kairōn)
- ii. *Acts 1:6–7*⁶ *Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”*⁷ *And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.*
- iii. *Matthew 24:36–37,44*³⁶ *“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...*⁴⁴

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

B. Not everyone is ready for Jesus Day. For them, It's judgement day. (Verses 2-3)

- i. *Zephaniah 1:14–15¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. ¹⁵ That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,*
- ii. *Acts 17:30–31³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”*
- iii. *2 Peter 3:9–10⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*
- iv. *Trapp on ‘as labour pains upon a pregnant woman’ - “Certainly / Suddenly / Irresistibly / inevitably.”*

2. ...SO WE NEED TO LIVE SOBERLY... (1 THESSALONIANS 5:4-8)

A. Living soberly means that We are **AWARE / awake / equipped (Verse 4)**

- i. *Matthew 25 wise & foolish virgins*
- ii. *A gentleman visiting a certain school gave out that he would give a prize to the pupil whose desk he found in the best order when he returned. "But when will you return?" some of them asked. "That I cannot tell," was the answer. A little girl, who had been noted for her disorderly habits, announced that she meant to win the prize. "You!" her schoolmates jeered; "why, your desk is always out of order." "Oh! but I mean to clean it the first of every week." "But suppose he should come at the end of the week? someone asked. "Then I will clean it every morning." "But he may come at the end of the day." For a moment the little girl was silent. "I know what I'll do," she said, "I'll just keep it clean."*

B. Living soberly means that We are aware / **AWAKE / equipped (Verses 5-8)**

- i. *John 11:9–10⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”*
- ii. *Matthew 5:14–16¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

C. Living soberly means that We are aware / awake / **EQUIPPED (Verse 8)**

- i. *1 Thessalonians 1:3³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,*
- ii. *1 Corinthians 13:13¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*
- iii. *Ephesians 6:13¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

3. ...BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN SAVED SECURELY. (1 THESSALONIANS 5:9-11)

A. Jesus saved us from the wrath of God by taking the punishment we deserved

- i. *John 3:36³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*
- ii. *Romans 5:8–9⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

B. We should be comforted and encouraged

- i. *John 10:28–30²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch (harpazo) them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no*

one is able to snatch (harpazo) them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

Growth Group Questions:

- The Bible talks about Christ's return happening at an unknown time like a "thief in the night". Considering this teaching, how do you feel about people who make specific predictions about Jesus' return?
- Some Christians only study prophecy and it's all they talk about. Others don't even know what prophecy is. What do you think is the right balance between studying prophecy too much and not enough?
- The day of the Lord is a time of judgment. This is a hard truth, but it is clearly taught in scripture. How can we effectively teach the judgment and wrath of God while also sharing the love of God?
- Living soberly means we are aware, awake, and equipped. How is it possible to live soberly thinking about the future, and still enjoy the life we have now?
- What are some ways you would encourage a Christian who is scared that they will be judged by God? In other words, how can you give someone comfort and encouragement about the security of their salvation?