

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 – The Day of the Lord

### Verse 1

*Now as to the times and the epochs* - This phrase is found only three times in the Bible and seems to refer primarily to God's plans for Israel. Note Daniel 2:21 and Acts 1:7.

*Times* = *chronos* from which we get the word chronology. It refers to time either long (an extended period) or short.

*Epochs* = *Kairos* which means a fixed or definite time, the time when things are brought to crisis, the opportune or seasonable time.

### Verse 1b-2a

*Brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you for you yourselves know full well* – Paul had taught them about future events when he was with them.

*That the day of the Lord* – This is a period of history characterized by God's working in the world in direct, dramatic ways. It begins with the Tribulation and continues through the Millennium. It contains both judgment and blessing!

### Verse 2

*The day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night* - Jesus used this image (Matt. 24:42-43) to describe the suddenness and surprise involved in the coming of the Day of the Lord. The Jews counted nighttime as the first part of each day and the daytime as the second part. The Day of the Lord will begin with a "dark" period (the Tribulation) followed by a "light" period (the Millennium).

### Verse 3

*While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them* – In Daniel 9:27 the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel begins with the signing of a covenant with Israel. It appears the antichrist will promise "peace and safety" and deceive the nations with a false peace for a short while. Jesus describes these events in Matthew 24:4-28.

*Suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child* – This pictures the suddenness of the event and the pain and labor that must follow. Out of the labor and pain (tribulation) will come the birth of the kingdom!

*And they shall not escape* – Just as a woman cannot escape the labor of childbirth, those in the tribulation cannot escape the judgment that is coming. False peace is offered, but judgment is coming!

Verses 4 through 8 begin a series of contrasts between: darkness and light, sleeping and being awake, drunkenness and sobriety. All are used to encourage us to be watchful and ready for the Lord's return.

### Verse 4

*In darkness* – They are not ignorant of the events. Darkness is a negative figure for those who are opposed to the Lord. Proverbs 4:19, *"The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know over what they stumble."*

*That the day should overtake you like a thief* – Those who walk in darkness cannot hear the warnings. They are like Noah's generation who repeatedly turned their ears away from the truth.

### Verse 5

*For you are all sons of light and sons of day* – *"For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."* Colossians 1:13-14. Note also 1 Peter 2:9-19.

*We are not of night nor of darkness – Satan’s kingdom is of night and darkness. We are no longer citizens of that kingdom.*

#### **Verse 6**

*So then let us not sleep as other do, but let us be alert and sober – We are not to be insensitive to spiritual truth (asleep) but alert (watchful) and sober (sound-minded)*

#### **Verse 7**

*For those who sleep do their sleeping at night and those who get drunk get drunk at night – Behavior follows attitude! Spiritual lethargy will always have moral consequences.*

#### **Verse 8**

*But since we are of the day, let us be sober – We should filter life through a Biblical grid. Our outlook determines our outcome. When our outlook is Biblical our outcome is secure.*

*Having put on the breastplate of faith and love – Faith and love are like a breastplate that covers the heart. Faith is toward God and love is toward each other.*

*And as a helmet, the hope of salvation – Hope is like a helmet that protects our mind. Believers are to fix their minds on things above (Col. 3:1-4).*

*The hope of salvation – This is not hoping for heaven. We can know that we have eternal life. This is the hope that salvation gives to us. The return of Christ for us is “the blessed hope”.*

*What are we to do in view of His eminent return?*

*Wake Up – Open our spiritual eyes!*

*Clean Up – Live a life consistent with who we are!*

*Dress Up – Put on the armor of God!*

#### **Verse 9**

*For God has not destined us for wrath – Paul has already mentioned our deliverance from the coming wrath in 1:10. The wrath of The Day of the Lord in the Tribulation is what is in view. This is a wonderful promise to the church that God will not allow us to go through the Tribulation.*

*But for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ – Salvation (deliverance) will come when the Lord raptures His church at the beginning of the Day of the Lord.*

#### **Verse 10**

*Who died for us... that we may live together with Him– Our deliverance is connected with our redemption. Christ died that we might live *through* Him (1 John 4:9), *for* Him (2 Corinthians 5:15), and *with* Him (1 Thess. 5:10).*

*Whether we are awake or asleep – Our spiritual condition at His return will not keep Jesus from taking us to live with Him at the rapture.*

#### **Verse 11**

*Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you are doing - The practical application of prophetic Scripture is encouragement and edification!*