

## I. The Revelation of the Returning Power (1-3)

**A. The futility of predicting His return (1-2) - “Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”**

Matthew 24:36 - “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”

Acts 1:7 - “He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.”

**B. The impossibility of avoiding His return (3) - “While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”**

## II. The Reminder of our Righteous Position (4-5)

**A. Jesus has made us alive (4a) - “But you are not in darkness, brothers...”**

**B. Jesus has made us alert (4b) - “...for that day to surprise you like a thief.”**

**C. Jesus has made us a light (5) “For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.”**

**Light allows things to be seen clearly, Light promotes health and growth, Light promotes safety and assurance, Light chases away darkness.**

## III. The Ruin of a Reckless People (6-7)

**A. A passive recklessness (6-7a) - “So then let us not sleep, as others do... For those who sleep, sleep at night...”  
These are individuals who are unaware, unalert, unconcerned with the promise of coming judgment.**

**B. A profane recklessness (7b) - “...and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.”  
This typifies the rebellious, riotous living which tempts God daily by immorality and debauchery.**

**C. A powerful remedy (6b) - “...but let us keep awake and be sober.”**

## IV. The Response of the Redeemed People (8-11)

**A. We are to take our Christian life seriously (8a) - “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober...”  
Sober indicates a life that is calm, collected, discreet, wise, and tempered.**

**B. Protect your heart by shielding it with faith in God and love for others (8b) - “having put on the breastplate of faith and love...”  
The heart is the seat of affections and emotions, desires and aspirations. When these are guided by faith, we live disciplined fruitful lives; when these are guided by love, our lives are characterized by selflessness and sacrifice.**

**C. Guard your mind by saturating it with eternal things (8c) - “...and for a helmet the hope of salvation.”**

**D. Understand and appreciate the cost of your salvation (9-10) - “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him.”**

**E. Make it a priority to help others live for Him (11) - “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”**