

LESSON SEVEN: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

OASIS Bible Study - October 27-28, 2026

REFLECT: When you think about Christ returning, what are you greatest concerns, fears, or expectations?

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THE QUESTION PAUL ADDRESSES IN CHAPTER 5:

How should believers _____ while they wait for Jesus Christ's _____?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. 2 For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. 3 When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

4 But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. 5 For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. 6 So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. 7 Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. 8 But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

9 For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us.
10 Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. 11 So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Mark 13:3-4
3 Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives across the valley from the Temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to him privately and asked him, 4 "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to be fulfilled?"

The return of Jesus will come like a _____ in the _____.

Three Metaphors for the Suddenness of Jesus' Return

1. ***A _____ who comes at night (vs. 2)***
   2 For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.

2. ***A nation with a false feeling of _____ that is later destroyed (vs. 3)***
   3 When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them…

3. ***A pregnant woman who feels her first _____ (vs. 3)***
   …*as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.*

Jesus' return is _____, but the timing is _____.

Verse 3 is speaking about _____.

3 When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them…

"THE DAY OF THE LORD" (vs. 4)

Isaiah 13:9
For see, the day of the Lord is coming — the terrible day of his fury and fierce anger. The land will be made desolate, and all the sinners destroyed with it.

Joel 1:15
The day of the Lord is near, the day when destruction comes from the Almighty. How terrible that day will be!

Joel 2:31
The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the Lord arrives.

In the Old Testament, "the Day of the Lord" refers to God stepping into history in a decisive way to…

1. _____ evil.
2. _____ His people.
3. _____ His rule.

The Day of the Lord:

1. **For unbelievers – judgment and destruction with no escape ("horrible", "dreadful")**
   See Revelation 6:12-17.

2. **For believers – comfort, salvation, and deliverance**

Joel 2:31-32
The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the Lord arrives. But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved…

Matthew 24:37-39

37 *"When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day.* ***38*** *In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat.* ***39*** *People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.*

Judgment against sin. Salvation for Noah and his family.

1 Thessalonians 5:4

4 *But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief.*

Luke 21:25-28

25 *"And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides.* ***26*** *People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken.* ***27*** *Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory.* ***28*** *So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!"*

1 Thessalonians 5:5-8

5 *For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night.* ***6*** *So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.* ***7*** *Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk.* ***8*** *But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.*

9 *For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us.*

BELIEVERS	**UNBELIEVERS**
Prepared	Caught off _____ (guard) (vs. 4)
Light	_____ (Darkness) (vs. 5)
The day	The _____ (night) (vs. 5)
Spiritually alert	Spiritually _____ (asleep) (vs. 6-7)
Clearheaded	_____ (drunk, confused) (vs. 6-7)
Salvation	God's _____ (anger) (vs. 9)

Living in Light of the Day of the Lord

Read the following verses and underline any phrases that describe how believers should live.

> **1 Thessalonians 5:6-8**
> ***6*** *So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.* ***7*** *Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk.* ***8*** *But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.*

REFLECTION: On a scale of 1-10, how spiritually alert are you? Are you staying clearheaded and watching for the return of Christ, or are you more spiritually asleep? Write down some thoughts in the space below.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

1 Thessalonians 5:8
…protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

> **1 Thessalonians 1:3**
> *As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Faith, hope, and love protect the believer's heart and mind.

1. _____ guards our minds against despair and unbelief.
2. _____ guards our minds against fear and discouragement.
3. _____ guards us against selfishness, bitterness, and

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

9 *For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us.*
10 *Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

11 *So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.*

Putting it all together:

Paul gives a clear pattern for living in light of Christ's return.

1. *Don't obsess over dates. Jesus' return is certain, but its exact timing is unknown.*
2. *Remember who you are. You are a child of light and a child of the day.*
3. *Stay awake and clearheaded. Do not drift off into spiritual sleep.*
4. *Put on the armor of faith, hope, and love. These protect us in a dark world.*
5. *Rest in Christ's salvation. Jesus died for us, and God has appointed His people for salvation, not wrath.*
6. *These words are meant to strengthen the church, so encourage one another.*