



**Doctrine: The Rapture of the Church
The Day of the Lord
Part 5
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11**

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When we studied the Minor Prophets, we were introduced to a term that is all over the Bible. This term gets confused by many as can be seen in some teachings on last things these days.



This term from Joel, Zephaniah and other books, the Day of the Lord, can be confusing. It sure was to the folks there in Thessalonica as Paul and Silas had to provide more detail not only here in 1 Thessalonians, but again in 2 Thessalonians too.

Paul and Silas have completed answering the question about the death of believers and the rapture. They have been comforted by the response just as we also are comforted.

Now that that question has been answered. Paul moves on to the question they had about the topic of the Day of the Lord.

For a church that had received only the basics of the faith in the two or so weeks the team was there teaching them, the depth of their knowledge is truly amazing.

Teaching on last things is not something we would think was important as we disciple new believers, but Paul and Silas believed it was. This means we all need to rethink what we assumed was important doctrinally for new believers to know. Clearly, last things is on the list.

We are in our fifth session surrounding the doctrine of the rapture of the church. Yes, we are indeed taking seriously the teaching of Paul and Silas about last things, and I want to make sure that we also have our questions or preconceived notions dealt with too.

We have examined where the rapture is in the Bible, examples of raptures and some rescues as well in the Bible, and how God has not allowed His kids to go through His wrath. We have seen that He even rescues those from it who haven't been exactly walking and following Him like they should, like Lot.

We are continuing our direct examination of the texts we find in the New Testament that address the doctrine of the rapture of the church. Part of that is determining what and when the Day of the Lord is.

Our Map

- John 14:1-3 Jesus - I go to prepare a place and will come back and get you.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 First the rapture.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Then the Day of the Lord.**
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Details about what the resurrection and the rapture looks like.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3a First the apostasy.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3b Then the Beast, antichrist, man of sin, etc. is revealed.

We have examined the introduction to the topic of the pretribulation rapture of the church given to us by Jesus in His prophecy given in John 14n when He promises to personally come back for us.

Then we looked at the fulfillment of that prophecy made by Jesus. It has been presented to us in a manner typical of Bible prophecy, already but not yet.

The language used in the Greek tell us that the events spoken of by Jesus in John 14 and Paul and Silas in 1 Thessalonians 4, are as good as fulfilled. But that does not stop folks from having other ideas about the rapture.

Some of the push back has an element of deception in it and may be more than just another view. There is a theology today referred to as dominion theology. In that theology, there is the belief that the church will rise up triumphant and take over the planet. This is now becoming politically attractive this election year as well.



This has been referred to under several terms that you need to be aware of since part of my challenge is not only to make sure we are taught truth, but you are also aware of efforts being taken to deceive us.

One term is the NAR or New Apostolic Reformation; the other is CN or Christian Nationalism.

I am not saying it is wrong to be a believer as well as a patriot. But we must walk that line and not allow our being a patriot turn into idolatry. Unfortunately, we are now so divided in this nation and in the church too that many find this topic to be tough to look at objectively.

I have served in the US military and have served in a combat role the entire time to include serving in the middle east. Yes, I have indeed been shot at by the enemies of our nation. I love this nation, but this is not my home, heaven is. Back to these terms.

“The New Apostolic Reformation can now be defined as a distinct movement with a unique ideology. The leaders of the movement, called apostles and prophets, claim that this is the most significant change in Protestantism since Martin Luther and the Reformation. The stated goal of the NAR is to eradicate denominations and form a unified church that will be victorious against evil in the end times. Like many American fundamentalists, the apostles teach that the events of the end times are imminent, but unlike fundamentalists, the apostles see this as a time of great victory for the church. Instead of escaping the earth during the rapture, prior to the turmoil of the end times, they teach that believers will defeat evil by taking dominion, or control, over all sectors of society and government, resulting in mass conversions to their brand of charismatic evangelicalism and a Christian utopia or “Kingdom” on earth.” (O’Reggio 2012, 138-139)

Rather than the rapture of the church, they believe the church will take over. To do that, we must elect leaders who will facilitate this.

They use a term called the Seven Mountains Mandate. They believe that the way to take dominion of earth is to take control of the seven most influential institutions of our culture. They call these mountains “which are identified as government, media, family, business, education, church, and the arts. These institutions are presently dominated by secular humanists and other opinion leaders who do not share God’s values.” (Geivett and Pivec 2014, 161)

That alone is enough to send some members of the press running for cover. The world has difficulty differentiating between nuances in theology, but as followers of Christ, we should not.

These groups drive away from a pretribulation rapture because they believe that “they” must take dominion of this world or dominion of this nation. But Jesus tells us in John 14 that He is preparing a place for all of us elsewhere. Why? Because He is not of this world (John 8:23), and neither is His kingdom (John 18:36). Yes, He has already defeated the world system. I do not want to take dominion of this present world, not in the slightest.

A pretribulation rapture does not play well with a theology that desires to take over this planet or this nation. “Dominion theology proposes the view that Christians gain complete authority over the earth before Jesus comes.” (O’Reggio 2012, 139) That view results in the denial of the rapture even being taught in the scriptures.

This has also gone under the names of Kingdom Now as well as Kingdom Theology and now also claims part of the term, Christian Nationalism.

“The belief that “America is a Christian nation” is sometimes called “soft dominionism”; the idea that God wants only Christians to hold government office and run the country according to biblical law is called



“hard dominionism.” That will happen when Jesus is King and He rules the planet. (Got Questions Ministries? 2002-2013)

This is all rather attractive, but it is also deceptive as it is unbiblical. We do not belong to this world or world system and trying to “retake” any nation for the Lord is not what Jesus has tasked the church to be about the business of doing.

Yes, I love our nation, but I am a citizen of heaven because of Jesus. “It is right and good to want to see justice done and biblical principles upheld (Psalm 33:5; Amos 5:15; Micah 6:8). And we are to do everything as unto the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:31). We are salt and light (Matthew 5:13–16), and it is perfectly reasonable for Christians to hold jobs in government and all other areas of society. But “bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth” is not our commission.” (Got Questions Ministries? 2002-2013)

Jesus Himself gave us our marching orders. Yes, I too am frustrated with what is going on in the world, but it is the world and why do we complain about unbelievers being unbelievers. We instead should be declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ. Making disciples is our charge.

Matthew 28:18–20.

“Then Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (NET 2nd ed.)

1 Corinthians 15:1–5

“And now I want to remind you, my brothers and sisters, of the Good News which I preached to you, which you received, and on which your faith stands firm. That is the gospel, the message that I preached to you. You are saved by the gospel if you hold firmly to it—unless it was for nothing that you believed. I passed on to you what I received, which is of the greatest importance: **that Christ died for our sins, as written in the Scriptures; that he was buried and that he was raised to life three days later, as written in the Scriptures;** that he appeared to Peter and then to all twelve apostles.” (GNB)

By grace, through faith, we become citizens of a perfect world that will last eternally (Ephesians 2:8–9). Our job is to “rescue those who are perishing; to hold back those stumbling towards slaughter” (Proverbs 24:11). (Got Questions Ministries? 2002-2013)

Or as Dr. J. Vernon McGee told me once, “we can get caught up in all sorts of things to improve society, but we have been called to catch and clean fish, not to clean the pond.” That is what we as the church have been called to do...make disciples.

Where we are in 1 Thessalonians, per Paul, assumes that we agree with him that Jesus is personally coming back for us at any minute. Nowhere did Jesus ever say, first we take dominion of this world system. Why would we want to do that? This world system is lost.

He said to make disciples and to expect persecution, He did not say take over so I can come back. John tells us what our view of this world should be.

1 John 2:15–17

“Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you do not love the Father. Everything that belongs to the world—what the sinful self desires, what people see and want, and everything in this world that people are so proud of—none of this comes from the Father; it all comes from the world. The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God live for ever.” (GNB)



Does this leave us any wiggle room to exercise dominion? No, it tells us that the world system is corrupt. Do I want to see revival? Yes. That, by the way, is the church being the church.

Our savior is not a political party or any single individual running for political office. Our savior is Jesus Christ. We need to be seeking Him.

Matthew 6:31–34

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**” (NKJV)

Since this world system is already judged, because Jesus defeated it on the cross, He will come back to take us to be with Him once the wrath of God is about to come onto this planet. That is also called the Day of the Lord.

Psalms 98:9

“Let them worship the LORD! **He is coming to judge everyone on the earth, and he will be honest and fair.**” (CEV)

Paul directly teaches the Rapture of the Church as a deliverance before the Great Tribulation’s judgments in one such passage, 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11. (Hodges 2000, 22)

Here he is answering the question about the Day of the Lord. First the rapture, then wrath.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

“Now as to the periods and times, brothers and sisters, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction will come upon them like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then, let’s not sleep as others do, but let’s be alert and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let’s be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. **For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.** Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.” (NASB 2020)

Paul and Silas have already warmed us up to the idea of Jesus, in fulfilling His promise made in John 14:1-3, removing His church before the wrath of God falls on this planet.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

“and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is, **Jesus who rescues us from the wrath to come.**” (NASB 2020)

Following the catching away of the saints there will come upon this world the darkest period it has ever known—that which is designated in many places in the Old Testament as the “day of the Lord,” and also the “time of trouble,” or “great tribulation,” as it is called in both the Old and New Testaments. (Ironside 1947, 53-54)



This was a topic that Paul and Silas had indeed taught to the church in Thessalonica. His opening phrase shows us that this is indeed something which has already been taught.

The periods and times that are being discussed here have nothing to do with the “when Jesus is coming for His church,” but “when Jesus is coming to establish His kingdom here on earth.”

Jesus Himself gave us a listing of what some of those signs would be in Matthew 24. They are not signs of when the rapture will take place. Whenever we try to combine the two, all we will do is get confused. The disciples were interested in the topic, they wanted to know what the periods and times were. They had asked in Matthew 24 and in Acts, they asked again.

Even though they had spent three years with Jesus, they had been impacted by the general belief that Messiah would conquer the gentiles, kick out the Romans, and recover the Davidic Kingdom and do so right now. But Jesus went to the cross. Peter attempted to start the messianic revolution, and all he did was remove Malchus' ear.

Fast forward another 40 days or so, and Jesus is preparing to ascend in preparation for what will take place, as promised, on Pentecost. The giving of the Holy Spirit.

One more time they want to know, is it now? And one more time, because next time the Holy Spirit will show them, He says no.

Acts 1:6–8

“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**” (CSB)

That's clear. Our job is to be about the business of being His witnesses all across the planet. The disciples knew what the OT taught about the Day of the Lord. It is a major theme of prophecy and cannot possibly begin until the church is removed.

Paul and Silas here in verse 1 are letting them know that there is nothing more to learn about the timing of the end. We already have it all, and we do.

Our job is the same as theirs and the same as the disciples, simply be ready all the time and occupy. Be about the business that Jesus has called to us to.

As believers, we do know about the warning signs He has given about the Day. We know how close it truly is and that the shadows of events during that time are already falling onto this day and age.

Zephaniah 1:14

“The great day of the LORD is near, near and rapidly approaching. Listen, the day of the LORD— then the warrior's cry is bitter.” (CSB)

Zephaniah warned the people of Jerusalem, who had turned away from the Lord, that they would see a type of the day of the Lord when Babylon would take the city. In verse 18 though, the Lord moves to the future and the future Day of the Lord.

Zephaniah 1:17–18

“I will bring distress on mankind So that they will walk like those who are blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD; And their blood will be poured out like dust, And their flesh like dung. Neither their



silver nor their gold Will be able to save them On the day of the LORD'S anger; And all the earth will be devoured By the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a horrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth." (NASB 2020)

The earth dwellers we read about in Revelation.

"I will bring distress" means "to cause trouble, bring to dire straits," but it is also possible to see here a play on the word *nšr*, "besieged" (cf. Isa 1:8). (Berlin 2008, 90)

Note who is the object of the wrath of God, mankind. The word in the Hebrew means human beings "and is often used to distinguish humans from non-humans. Its usage is somewhat strange here." (Berlin 2008, 90)

Here in Zephaniah, in a discussion on the Day of the Lord, the Lord uses words that state He will besiege human beings. As we have seen in our study of Revelation, it will be a unique time. There will be humans, augmented humans, cybernetically enhanced humans, genetically enhanced proto-humans, Nephilim, demons, and fallen angels all showing up at Armageddon. Is there a reason why the Lord focuses just on the humans? Are they the only ones who still have a chance to experience God's grace and as such the only ones who would feel distressed?

At the very least, it points to this being a global event.

But those who are distressed, and that would not include the remnant or any remaining Tribulation saints, would encounter what is going on and walk around oblivious, blind to what it all means. Just as we saw reflected in Revelation 16. They are not being guided by the Lord, unlike those who are the remnant and are Tribulation believers. Their blindness is due to their sin which they refuse to repent of.

Again, this is humans only as outlined for us at the beginning of the verse.

We categorize our sin, God doesn't. Here, "humans may categorize their sins into the serious, the mediocre, and the insignificant. To Zephaniah (see James 2:10–11) the mere fact of sin excited and merited the whole weight of divine rage. The simple statement "they have sinned" is sufficient." (Motyer 2009, 924)

The Day of the Lord is all about judgment, the wrath of God on fallen mankind.

Joel 1:15

"Woe for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty." (NASB 2020)

When we see this term, the Day of the Lord, used, we realize that the idea "is that this is Gods' time. Man has his "day," and the LORD has His day. In the ultimate sense, the day of the LORD is fulfilled with(sic) Jesus judges the earth and returns in glory. In a lesser sense, a time of judgment as Judah experienced with the locusts and drought is also an example of the day of the LORD." (Guzik 2000, Joel 1:15-20)

We are currently living in what the Bible calls, the times of the gentiles. In fact, Jesus Himself (Luke 21:24) made a statement concerning this time of the gentiles including evidence that we are in it and a definitive statement of when it will eventually end.

It all has to do with Jerusalem, how the nations treat it and the rescue of His people who have prayed (Hosea 5:15, Zechariah 13:9) for rescue when He returns as the avenger of blood as Armageddon rages and the beast attempts to achieve the genocide of all Jews worldwide (Zechariah 14, Revelation 19).



Let's examine this term, the Day of the Lord.

As believers in Christ, the scriptures are very clear that we who believe today, prior to His return for the church, also known as the rapture of the Church, will not be subjected to the Day of the Lord. We also know it is not just a day but a time period.

Paul has just gone through great lengths to make sure the church in Thessalonica knows this. Joel used an invasion of locusts as his example of what the Day would be like. Zephaniah used the Babylonians. Types of the day have occurred in the history of Israel and Judah. But the types are nothing like what the actual Day will be like.

1 Thessalonians 5:2–3

“For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction will come upon them like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” (NASB 2020)

As believers, we are not in the dark. Jesus personally promised us that with the Holy Spirit, none of this will be a surprise to us.

John 16:13.

“The Spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth. The Spirit doesn't speak on his own. He will tell you only what he has heard from me, and he will let you know what is going to happen.” (CEV)

The Day of the Lord “is a time of divine intervention into the affairs of men. This phenomenon has taken place historically, which is but a picture of that future intervention of judgment beginning at the Tribulation. The “light” or blessing aspect of the Day will be experienced during the Kingdom age after Israel has been brought to repentance in keeping with the “unconditional” nature of the OT promises.” (Hullinger 2015, 101)

Another historical example or type of the day of the Lord is in Joel, involving locusts and drought. The only hope Judah had, was to turn to the Lord and repent. This is no different than the hope we have. We too must turn to the Lord, repent and rely on Him to rescue us, just as Judah did. Jesus promised to do this in John 14.

Our hope is this, that at any point of the day or night, our Lord Jesus Christ will come for us. He promised to “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:3, ESV)

When Jesus removes His body, the church from this planet, that clears the way for the Day of the Lord to begin.

The Thessalonian church understood this to be the case. Paul made it clear to them that they would not be subjected to the wrath of God. Their confusion was making connections that did not exist between ordinary persecution from the world and the wrath of God connected with the Day of the Lord.

Paul pointed that out to them making it clear that the Day of the Lord will not start as long as the church is still here.

When the rapture occurs upsetting life as it is here on planet earth, it will be totally, except for those of us looking for it, a surprise. “The era of eschatological climax has its advent when (humanly speaking) all seems well with life proceeding as usual.” (Hodges 2000, 27)



Matthew 24:38–39

“For in those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. And they knew nothing until the flood came and took them all away. It will be the same at the coming of the Son of Man.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Paul tells the believers in Thessalonica that none of this will take them by surprise. They are looking for Jesus to come and take them. Their loved ones who have died and knew the Lord won't miss out, and they won't either. It will not come as a shock to them nor will it take place and they find themselves still here. Because, just as he already said earlier in the letter, it is "...Jesus who rescues us from the wrath to come." (1 Thessalonians 1:10b, NASB 2020)

This is a definitive promise to them and to us that our Lord will deliver us from the Tribulation by removing us from this planet before it ever takes place, and it will come as a shock to the world.

1 Thessalonians 5:4–6

“But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then, let's not sleep as others do, but let's be alert and sober.” (NASB 2020)

As believers, we study prophecy, and we know things.

The world sees nothing but disaster on every corner because of the living God coming into the timeline and removing His church suddenly. The world wants peace and safety, but that is not what they will receive. But we as believers, we know, we comprehend, and we expect to go at any second.

This church has been severely persecuted, and some are now dead as a result. This has been the condition of the church over the centuries with persecution being the rule rather than the exception. We are not of this world. Here is a promise of future vindication and we, as the church, as His body, will be part of the victorious. We simply need to be ready.

This states clearly that there is no use trying to compute the time of Christ's coming. God does not want it to be known. (Osborne 2018, 120)

That is difficult for us to understand but there are reasons we do not know. With all the prophecies about the first coming of Jesus Christ, Satan and his minions still got it wrong. If they had known what the outcome of the crucifixion would be, they would have never encouraged the Sanhedrin and the Romans to go there (1 Corinthians 2:8).

We have more prophecies about His second coming than the first, yet there is still enough ambiguity there on some items that you simply cannot lock some things down. For example, the Gog/Magog War of Ezekiel 38. I believe it takes place after the rapture. But Tim Lahaye believed it was before the rapture.

There are some who believe it is descriptive of what takes place at Armageddon, and then there are those who point to the judgment at the end of the millennial rule of Jesus Christ. If Satan had all the details, then he would take action to prevent it from taking place. Call it strategic jamming to keep it from the enemy.

God does not want us to know the exact date, time or hour, if we knew, we also would react as well. What would you do differently right now if you knew that Jesus Christ would return for His church this Sunday at noon eastern time?



Think of the thousands of South Koreans from the Tami Mission Church who waited eagerly for the Rapture on October 28, 1992, because of the date setting of their leaders. An estimated five thousand sold their homes and deserted their jobs and families to await Jesus' return. Reportedly, several expectant mothers had abortions to be more easily raptured. (Radmacher 1998, 51-52)

His coming is imminent. We must be ready always.

Here is what Paul and Silas have been saying, distilled down to the basics.

The rapture of the church from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 is joy and life for those of us who know Jesus. But the Day of the Lord begins once that event takes place and 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 means horror and destruction for those left behind.

There is no peace and safety apart from Jesus. But Satan wants us to think it is possible with the right political leader and the right military force. That is deception. For example, the motto for SAC was "Peace is our profession." In other words, we ensure peace with MAD. That is the world's version.

Paul gives us the wake-up call here letting us know that we are not to be sucked into this idea. We are not to be sucked into the idea of the world's version of peace or the world's version of security. We are not to be deceived that we can turn any nation back to the Lord, since that gives credence to the false presumption that they ever were a nation following the Lord to begin with. They weren't. We are not to be deceived that we can obtain all of this here right now by exercising dominion over the political process, the law and the culture. Satan already has examples of that for us globally in Islamic sharia law-based nations so we can see how well that works.

The only thing that will work is when Jesus Christ returns to this planet and takes over. He will be the one who rules with an iron rod. All we are seeing is a reoffer from Satan of what Jesus rejected. There is nothing new here.

Luke 4:5-8

"Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me." Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'"" (NLT)

Any and all attempts to exercise dominion tend to result in an acceptance of the offer of Satan that Jesus rejected. The history of the Crusades reflect that. Church history through the centuries reflects that. The Holy Roman Empire wasn't holy.

The Beast will accept that offer and for 3 ½ years, during the Day of the Lord, will indeed exercise dominion over the planet while trying to kill every single Jew and Tribulation believer on the planet. Then Jesus Christ, in response to His people the Jews praying for Him to return, does so and with all the armies of heaven and the church with Him, takes over the planet.

For us, real change and real revolution occur as we go about the business of what Jesus has called us to and as He pours out His Spirit, people are saved.

In 1904, Wales saw the beginnings of a great awakening take place. Beginning in January 1904 in New Quay, Cardiganshire, the Spirit poured out and thousands were saved. This spread globally and millions were saved with the number estimated to be more than 5 million by 1906. So, what happens when people come to Christ?



Crime was so diminished that judges were presented with white gloves attesting that there were no cases of murder, assault, rape or robbery, or the like to consider. Local police became unemployed in many districts. Slowdowns occurred in coal mines, not due to unpleasantness between management and workers, but because so many foul-mouthed miners became converted and stopped using foul language that the horses which hauled the coal trucks in the mines could no longer understand what was being said to them, and transportation slowed until the horses learned the language of Canaan. (Stott 2018)

In other words, what others want to attain in this world by taking over, the spirit simply does in the life of each changed believer. And as the number of those who follow Jesus begins to increase, the culture begins to change.

The church knows better than to be sucked in to the schemes of the devil.

1 Thessalonians 5:7–11

“For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let’s be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For **God has not destined us for wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.” (NASB 2020)

As we wait and watch for our Lord to come, there is a danger of becoming like the world around us. We do see that happening these days.

We must guard ourselves from becoming complacent, and that requires us to be aware that everyday we are here on this planet is one more day of spiritual warfare engaging with an enemy who has already lost and who has no power over us except that power we give him.

So, we see the call here to put on the armor. This is an idea that Paul will alter further develop but he introduces this idea to us here as a necessary component of doing life in these days while waiting for Jesus to come and get us.

He warns us first of the danger of being lulled asleep by the world. Jesus talked a little about this as well in a parable.

Accountability and faithfulness to the Lord are indeed a thing as we go about serving Him while waiting for Him to return.

Luke 12:42–48

“And the Lord replied, “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. But what if the servant thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful. “And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn’t prepared and doesn’t carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.” (NLT)

We are to live just as the Thessalonians are being encouraged to live, in the daily hope of Jesus soon return. We are to have our faith in Jesus be our breastplate protecting our hearts from what it is the devil would like to do, deceive and mislead us.



In addition to the breastplate, Paul also exhorts the Thessalonians to put on as a helmet the hope of salvation. This phrase might well be rendered, as a helmet the expectation of deliverance [or, 'rescue']. (Hodges 2000, 30)

Do we live in the daily expectation that today might be the day? I like the idea of this being a helmet, that is something you always want to have on before engaging in combat of any kind. It protects you and for us. Knowing and reaffirming, everyday, that today might be the day, keeps us living in the expectation of His return for us.

The church should be living for Him and pleasing Him, knowing at any moment she will be with Him forever as He is (1 John 3:2). (Olander 2009, 107)

1 John 3:2

"Dear friends, we are God's children now; and it has not yet been made clear what we will become. We do know that when he appears, we will be like him; because we will see him as he really is." (CJB)

Are you ready?

Romans 3:21–24

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."" (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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