

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"READY POSITION" | 1 THESSALONIANS 5: 1-11 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

Would you rather have a surprise visitor suddenly show up or know a visitor is coming weeks ahead but not exactly when?

"2 Discernments" (1 Thess 5: 1-4)

The day of judgment will come suddenly and surprise unbelievers, while Jesus' followers will be anticipating it. **How does anticipating something show belief or faith? How can believers better show this expectation?**

"2 Domains and 2 Dispositions" (1 Thess 5: 5-7)

Christ followers are to live as children of light, not in darkness. Being awake and sober means being aware mentally and morally in our daily rhythms instead of being careless and drifting like being sleepy. **What makes it hard to be mentally and morally aware in our culture today? What is the danger of being careless and drifting morally?**

"2 Dress Codes and 2 Destinies" (1 Thess 5: 8-11)

Because God has destined believers live with Him forever and not experience His wrath. Therefore Christ followers should "put on" faith, hope and love as a soldier puts on armor. **How do faith, hope and love protect someone's heart and mind?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Paul reminds believers that Jesus died so that His followers might be saved and live with Him. They do not need to fear the day of judgment. **Do you have confidence in Jesus' love for you? Are you living like a child of light, waiting for Jesus to return? Ask God to cover you with love and to increase your faith and give you hope so you can live as you should.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

8-27-23

Ready Position

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-8 Tony: Missions Prayer. Movie Night. CG. Foundations. R&R. CK. Bapt.
- B. Slide9,10 Jen: Building on Faith. And remodel tour.
- C. Slide11 Prayer: we pray together for our place of worship/fellowship.

II. Intro: Ready Position

- A. In **T-ball** they start young kids off with the basics. With respect to fielding the ball, they emphasized *The Ready Position*. Comfortable crouch. Up on the balls of your feet so you can move in any direction. Glove down and ready to field the ball. Eyes focused on the ball. Which in T-Ball looks like this. Slide12 (note diff in *readiness* w/each)
 1. Of course the idea is, they need to expect that the ball is going to be hit to them. As they grow in the game they need to *already have thought through* the possibilities in their mind, how many outs, and where they're going to throw the ball. There is a similar *Ready Position* for every sport.
 - a) Paul teaches us in ch.5 that there is *a Ready Position* for believers when it comes to our **anticipation** of the Return of Christ. We'll see how **believers anticipate** the return of Christ ... as opposed to **unbelievers**. (Amos 5:18)
- B. Slide13 Paul continues his discussion of *the Lord's Return* (1st, *He's Returning* but do we have to go to work? **Then last week**, *He's Returning* but what about those *believers who have already died*?) **Now** Paul turns to another question that the Thessalonians had raised - *the timing*.
 1. When the disciples wanted **a time** Jesus said, *It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.*¹ So, if **Jesus** didn't give them any more *light on the situation*, Paul surely couldn't.
 2. Paul dismisses the need for *speculation*. **Instead**, he urges believers to be alert & self-controlled as they live in expectation of *the Day of the Lord*

¹ Acts 1:7

3. Everybody wants a **date** to circle on their calendar. (I say, *Go for it*. Just circle every day as soon as you wake up!)

C. Paul will appeal to what they *already know*. (2)

D. **Outline**: Contrasts of **2 Discernments**. **2 Domains**. **2 Dispositions**. **2 Dress Codes**. **2 Destinies**.

E. **Slide14** *Us and them can be rude* (culture diff, racial diff, diff denom) - **but hear**, the way I highlighted the text, it's *very important*. **Slide15 Read vs.1-11**

III. **Slide16 2 DISCERNMENTS (1-4)** *be informed & realistic; not living in ignorance*

A. **The Day of the Lord** – **or** the Day of His Wrath, Day of Judgment, (on a *Christ-rejecting* world)

1. **Not a 24 hour day**. The 7 yrs of the Tribulation & the Great Tribulation. AKA, **the 70th Week of Daniel**. [2nd Coming = 1007 yrs]

B. **The Day of the Lord** received much discussion in the OT (often called *that day*) 200x's

C. **Slide17** Look at chart - 1st do 22 ch's. **Note ch.'s 6-18** (7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowl judgments)

1. **4th Seal** - kills **a fourth** of the earth (Rev.6:8)

2. **6th Trumpet** - kills **a third** of mankind (Rev.9:15)

3. **3rd Bowl** - all fresh water becomes blood (Rev.16:4)

a) **If 70%** of the earth's surface is covered in water. **97%** of that water is saltwater. Only **3%** of all the world's water source is freshwater. **2%** of that is within the polar ice caps and glaciers. **Human civilization right now, survives off of 1%** of the water on our planet. **Wow, how fragile the water supply system is, and how quickly that will effect the global water situation?**

D. **Characteristics of that day include ...**

E. **Slide18** **Like a thief in the night** – You've seen the Stealth Bombers flying over.

1. **Their design of course allows them to approach by stealth**. Quickly & unexpectedly, they come without any warning. **It flies in at low altitude and has a unique body design in which radar cannot pick up.**

2. *The thief in the night* is used for “them” (3) **not for** the believers (4).

a) Thieves catch you unaware, *they don't advertise their coming*.

F. (3) **Peace and security** – It will come when life is moving along as *normal*.

1. Jesus used this same illustration in Lk.17:26-30 *as it was in the days of Noah so will it be in the days of the son of man*. Life going on as normal: *eating, drinking, & being married*. Before **Ruin is Rapture**. Before judgment he snatches **His own** away. [eg.Noah. Lot]

2. The **lost world** will get caught in a time when they **feel secure**.
(unbelievers *ignoring* God's warnings)

G. **Sudden Destruction** – Joel 1:15 NLT *The day of the Lord is near, the day when destruction comes from the Almighty. How terrible that day will be!* (Then in 2:11) *The day of the Lord is an awesome, terrible thing. Who can possibly survive?*

H. **They will not escape** – Sobering

1. Likened unto **a pregnant women** w/labor pains (faster / more intense).

2. **No escaping** *having this baby now*, when it's past the point of no return.

IV. Slide19 **2 DOMAINS** (5) *live as children of light/day; not of the night/darkness*

A. (5) **Day/Night & Dark/Light** - Col.1:13 *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.*

B. This is contrasting 2 worlds/2 spheres/2 domains:

1. **Darkness**, picture of the world we live in now (sin, satan, fallen world).

2. This is juxtaposed with **Light**: when we get saved. **Light is about** (forgiveness of sins, Jesus, hope of heaven).

V. Slide20a **2 DISPOSITIONS** (6,7) *keep awake & be sober; not sleeping & drunk*

A. Here's some *down to earth* advice on **how to live** in this present day.

B. ***Keeping awake** is more **mental**; **Sober** is more **moral**.

C. **Let us not sleep as others do** – good word for this morning during my teaching :)

1. **Side note:** this is a different word for **Sleep** then in ch.4. It means ... *don't have a careless indifference.*

a) Paul Promotes **Christian Wakefulness**. *Drowsy Christians are often Drowning Christians.*

2. John Bunyan, in his **christian allegory**, **Pilgrims Progress**, tells of **Christian & Hopeful** journeying to **the Celestial city**. He said, *"To prevent drowsiness in this place, let us fall into good discourse."*

a) Christians who isolate themselves & walk alone, are very liable to *grow drowsy*. It's team work ... it's growing & living **life together**.

(1) Oh, it can be done, **but** it is a rarity to **go it alone**.

b) Walk w/other **Jesus followers**, and you'll be **kept wakeful** by it. And you'll be **refreshed**. And you'll be **encouraged** to make *quicker progress* on the road to **heaven**. Center your conversations on **Jesus**.

D. **Keeping awake** – It is the *opposite of indifference*. It involves **alertness**.

1. Someone said, the **Lion** of *persecution* might not be a threat to us, **but** we are being hugged by the **Bear** of *this world*. **Beware**.

2. **Slide20b** Rom.13:11,12 *Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to **wake** from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and **put on the armor of light**.*

3. **again**, ***Keeping awake** is more **mental**, **sober** is more **moral**.

E. **Sober** – **No drunkenness** (instead *be controlled by the HS*), **no self-indulgence**.

1. **Take life seriously**. Reach out to people, love them, feed them, help them, offer salvation to them.

2. **Illustration: Air Traffic Controllers** have been charged with monitoring the traffic of airplanes in the sky, **so that** there are no disastrous collisions. They **must** be anticipating what is coming next. There cannot be any surprises. An air traffic controller *drunk or asleep on the job*, would not be able to do their job very well. [don't be *drunk on this world*]

VI. Slide21 **2 DRESS CODES (8)** *be protected w/the armor of God, w/faith, love, hope; not self-protection*

- A. An image of a soldier on duty is what comes to mind. And the two things named of most important is: wearing his ballistic vest and helmet (like we sent to Ukraine/civlins)
- B. What does Paul say needs to be *protected the most* from our enemy satan? our *faith, love, & hope*.

VII. Slide22a **2 DESTINIES (9-11)** *be destined for deliverance; rather than the wrath*

- A. (9) See **1:10**. Also, Rev.3:10 *Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.*
- Slide22b *Oh, we as believers go through “small t” **tribulation** here in this world, **but not** the “capital T” **Tribulation**.
- B. **Destined** – to fix conclusively or authoritatively. Not as strong as *predestinate*, **but** it clearly rests our salvation on *the Divine Initiative*. **Right now you have a destiny, either to wrath, or to salvation.**
- Believers Listen up**. We can rest in *the hope of salvation* cuz it’s **destined**
 - Unbelievers** listen up. No worries ... He’ll let you *stay your course* :(
 - Wrath** is the anguish of tribulation, the day it begins;
Salvation is escaping this, and living with Him.
 - To believers**: don’t be *indifferent* because **tomorrow** is **secure**.
 - To unbelievers**: don’t be *fooled* because **today** seems **calm**.
- C. Slide22c (10) Paul keeps *the cross* **central** in his gospel ... *who died for us!*
- On our behalf (He took our punishment for sin). For our benefit (so that we can live with Him). As our substitute (in our place where we deserve to die)
- D. **We might live with Him** (4:17b *so we will always be w/the Lord*)
- E. **Encourage & Build up** (11) [like in 4:18]
- Every church member** has a duty to help in *building up* the community, so that it may attain spiritual maturity. **He climbs higher who helps another up!**

2. So, wait patiently, wakefully, watchfully, soberly, w/faith, hope & love, & encouragement and building up one another.
3. Are you in the **Ready Position?** (or picking daisies in the outfield?)

F. (after last song) ***Movie Night:** Funny I want you to know, Movie theaters picked today to say all movies \$4.00, then other theater \$3.00. We set this up months ago, **CM FREE!** ... see you tonight! The Jesus Movement made *world wide Church History*. This is the movement we are a part of. **Join us tonight.**

G. Keywords: day of the Lord.