

## **Are You on a Collision Course with God's Wrath?**

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**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 5:7-11

**1 Thessalonians:** [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

**UBS 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Paragraph Topic:** The Lord's Coming

**Central Idea of Message:** Christians are not destined for the wrath of God; however, the unbelievers of the world are indeed on a collision course with the wrath of God.

**Introduction:** The Bible clearly teaches that those who reject the Lord Jesus are destined to experience God's wrath and eternal hell-fire. This is an indubitable, absolute truth.

On the other hand, those who have received Christ Jesus and have repented of their sin are immune to the wrath of God and hell-fire. Are you on a collision course with God's wrath?

### **I. Evidences of Lostness and Salvation (vv. 7-8)**

#### **A. Evidences of lostness (v. 7)**

1. **Sleeping: not remaining alert**
2. **Drunkenness: not maintaining self-control**

#### **B. Evidences of salvation (v. 8)**

1. Being of the day means remaining sober
2. Being of the day means having on the Christian armor: a trinity of virtues

##### **a) Faith**

- (1) **Belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, like a breastplate, protects the "heart," a most vital spiritual organ**

- (2) Faith keeps the believer in close relationship with Christ

- (3) Faith and love are actually seen as a unit; where one is found the other will be also

##### **b) Love**

- (1) Unconditional commitment to Christ, like a breastplate, protects the heart

- (2) **Love is the visible outgrowth of one's invisible faith**

- (3) Love governs our relationships with others as faith governs our relationship with Christ
- c) Salvation
  - (1) Helmets protect another very vital part of the body, the head
    - (a) The man or woman whose head and heart are both shielded appropriately is spiritually invincible
    - (b) **The head must be kept from error: the giving of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation equips one for avoiding error!**
    - (c) **The heart must be kept from sin: faith and love do this!**
  - (2) Hope is not a question mark but a certainty
  - (3) Salvation from what? See the following

## II. Benefits of Salvation (vv. 9-11)

### A. Believers are not destined for wrath (v. 9)

- 1. Unbelievers are destined for God's wrath: so much for there being no judgment day or hell
- 2. **God appoints no people to experience his wrath but such as appoint themselves by rejecting his grace**
- 3. **Believers do experience the wrath of man and perhaps even that of the Antichrist**
- 4. Believers will not experience the wrath of God
- 5. Faith in Christ and repentance toward God remove the terror of judgment day
- 6. **Believers are destined to receive the final installment of salvation secured through Jesus Christ being their Lord**
  - a) Justification
  - b) Sanctification
  - c) Glorification
- 7. **Salvation is both passive and active**
  - a) Passive: something done outside ourselves which is a mighty work performed by God
  - b) Active: something done by us in response to God, namely faith and repentance

### B. Jesus Christ died for the purpose of making eternal life with him a reality (v. 10)

- 1. He died for sinners and their sins

2. He died so that whether the believer is alive on earth or dies he or she will still maintain unbroken relationship and existence with him

C. **Eternal life with Christ and avoidance of God's wrath are reasons for rejoicing and encouraging (v. 11)**

1. One of the many ministries of the church is to build up the weaker Christians so that they become stronger
2. Part of church life is investing in the lives of others
  - a) Making strong Christians
  - b) Making strong families
  - c) Building one another up in faith, love, and hope
  - d) Helping people fit the helmet of salvation onto their heads

**Conclusion: Are you on a collision course with God's wrath come judgment day?** Hymn #502, "Day of Judgment! Day of Wonders!"