

God's Blueprint for Faith Baptist Church

Part 4 – Our Direction – Our Destination

The Coming of the Lord

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The Day of the Lord

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

- What an odd thing for Paul to change directions this way
 - We're talking about how best to give our lives to being the best version of Christ we can be by...
 - Being yielded to the Spirit's sanctification
 - Denying our flesh it's desires by possessing our vessels
 - Don't take selfish advantage of our brethren
 - Being Holy, as Christ is Holy
 - Love One another more and more
 - Know our job/role in His Church and do it well
 - Stay out of the roles that aren't yours
 - So, why does Paul go this direction?

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

- What a noble thing to distract us!
 - We have a Destination, and it is promised
 - We have a Direction, and it is promised
 - We have Distractions and we love them
 - To worry about those who have gone on may seem noble
 - But it cannot altar or stop us from our Direction
 - God's not wanting us to forget or forsake them
 - They cannot be the reason we do nothing
- We **MUST** understand the Destination and Direction and how it plays into our respective roles without taking us from them

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you **by the word of the Lord**, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

- Do you believe that in the Resurrection of Christ?
 - Wednesday Night we talked about this very subject

- Paul was writing the church at Corinth and assuring them of the facts of Christ's resurrection...
- **1 Corinthians 15:20** But now **is** Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.
 - Jesus is a resurrected Savior
 - Jesus did redeem mankind to His Father
 - Jesus does live now and will forever
- If you believe Christ is risen...
 - Our family & friends who have gone on IN Christ will be ok
 - Their Souls will come with Him to get us!
 - Paul Says, "this is the Word of the Lord" in verse 15
 - Nothing we do will stop what Christ is going to do
 - This means even if you do nothing that you're supposed to do, those who are in Christ will still be in Christ
 - You cannot perform well enough for them to have a better chance
 - You cannot underperform to prevent them from having a chance
 - You have nothing to do with their station in Christ
 - So, stop worrying and worship Christ with your works
 - Their dead bodies will meet their saved souls in the air
 - Our dead in sin bodies will meet them in the air
 - You might be like, "how do you know that, Larry" ...well the Bible tells us...
 - **1 Corinthians 15:50** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.
 - 51** Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,**

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and **the dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and **we shall be changed**.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- So, we MUST know this as fact and comfort each other when the worry starts to distract us from our **Destination** or take us from our **Direction**

- So, we get into Chapter 5 and the Word says...

1 Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

- Willful ignorance is Woeful ignorance
- That is to say...You need to KNOW these things
 - To ignore them or say these aren't true is damnable to you

- You know Christ is coming, you don't know when
 - So, be ready now, and stay ready then
- You may want to know what to look for...

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

- The more that Society tries to convince us that it's all under control
- The more a government tries to convince of the peace they only can bring
- The more distant the World's view of God becomes
- **The more we know we MUST fulfill our Role as God's children and Christ's Bride**

4 But ye, brethren, are **not in darkness**, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the **children of light**, and the **children of the day**: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore **let us not sleep**, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, **the hope of salvation**.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

- I wish this weren't as true as it is.
 - We are too often in darkness.
 - It is so easy to just leave the light off and sit and do nothing for the kingdom of God.
- There is a problem with having the light off, there are few problems when we are **in darkness**
 - It is easy to be overtaken
 - the enemy has very little effort to put in to dupe us
 - Sin is just too easy to hide and be in bondage to
 - It is easy to sleep
 - Fleshly wicked sin may not overtake us, but apathy will
 - We are too comfortable in our blessed assurance to wake up and fight
 - It is too easy to be drunk
 - This isn't just about alcohol consumption or being drunk
 - This is about allowing pleasures in life to be what we are intoxicated with instead of Christ
 - The answer is LIFE IN CHRIST
 - We are children of the Light...walk in the Light
 - Awake to Christ
 - Be Overtaken or Overwhelmed by Him
- **Comfort and encourage those with the light off to do the same!**
 - Do you have the HOPE of salvation?
 - If you don't know Jesus and are in Darkness, step into the light today!

- If you know Jesus and are in Darkness...
 - Step into the Light as you walk with Jesus
 - Wake up
 - Sober up
 - Step up and fulfill your role
- **And Church, if you're not going the direction that we've talked about today, it will have an adverse effect on your Destination**
- **If these Words of What IS to come don't encourage and comfort you, I'd be asking "Why not?"**