

The Comfort of Truth

1Thess 5:1-4

ABC

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1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 (NASB95)

¹ Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. ² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. ³ While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

1. What caused the Thessalonians to be so concerned about the dead believers? Perhaps the above is almost an irrelevant thought for some believers. But, when you have attended a grave-side service what thoughts did you have? (Countless times as an unbeliever I have stood by the grave with the mind racing, Now What?) Or how might this help us understand what an unbeliever may be thinking at such a time a minister to them?
2. What makes us so concerned with many things having to do with timing? (Need to know, control, my plans, etc). How should we apply NOT knowing the time to our walks NOW?
3. Why is *Acts 1:7* important to this discussion and what does it contribute?
4. Since no one looks forward to the coming of a thief. Why do you think this imagery is useful to describe the coming of Christ? What would the impact be for believer and unbeliever? (Fear vs Comfort, and..)
5. What is the contrast pictured in verse 3 and how does that influence your thinking?
6. What does it look like for us to live as "children of the light" in this generation?
7. *Col. 1:12ff* indicated we have been transferred to the light? What are some practical observations of this truth given our context in 1Thess? How is Paul praying the Colossians would live? "*Joyously giving thanks*"
8. What are the practical implications of Christ's coming for us?

9. What can we do personally to just live in a state of faithful readiness?
10. Since we are sons of the day & light what is our attitude towards the DOL?
11. Do we need to be concerned about the “when?” Why or why not?
12. Given *Matthew 24:37–39*, *Luke 17:28–30* Who are the ones taken? (The ones who are spared). How might the ones being left be deceiving themselves into a false sense of security? What could it look like even in our day?
13. Reading these (2) passages above what do we notice? (The time of the taking is a possible night or day.) POINT: We might infer it will be night only.
14. What is the significance of being in the dark? How does this help in sharing the gospel especially as we consider what Paul said in *Col. 1:12-14* being qualified, rescued, transferred? (Consider especially consider the metaphor of needing rescued, in the dark). The lost we know are trapped! Implications for our hearts?
15. If someone is in the dark what are the implications for the believer as it relates to seeking wisdom, counsel, etc? What are some scenarios this may be relevant?
“The completeness of the rescue prohibits any predisposition to seek either the aid or advice of those agencies the power of darkness utilizes.
16. How would you describe our living expectantly as we wait? (*1Thess. 1:9-10*)

Anchored In Prayer:

- Praise God, and give thanks that we do not need to fear the coming of the Lord.
- Pray for us to be awakened to the fresh reminder of the pending destruction awaiting the unbeliever with grieved hearts reaching out with the gospel.
- Pray that we will live our lives with practical expectancy of the Lord’s imminent return.
- Pray that the truth of this passage will bring the comfort to the church as Paul/Spirit intended.

