

# “The Day Of The Lord”

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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**Teaching Aim:** To explore what the attitude of a Christian should be as we approach the day of the Lord. To realize the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night upon an unbelieving world; but it should be no surprise to believers who are alive at the time. To realize Christians should be walking as sons of the light and sons of the day; not living their lives in the darkness of sin. To understand God did not appoint His people to wrath, but to obtain salvation in Jesus Christ!

### DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

#### **Part I: Concerning the times and the seasons you yourselves should know (1 Thess. 5:1-3)**

1. Although Paul had never taught the Thessalonians about the Rapture of the Church until **1 Thess. 4:16-18**, it appears that he had taught them about “*the Day of the Lord*” (**vs. 1**). With the doubts some of the Thessalonian believers were wrestling with, Paul felt it necessary to cover this topic once again. Have you ever doubted God during difficult times? What caused you to question God? How did you get through this difficult time?
  
2. Can anyone know for sure on what day the Rapture will occur? (See **Mark 13:32-33**) How can we recognize when “*the Day of the Lord*” is getting close? (See **Matt. 24:5-8**)
  
3. According to **verse 2**, how will “*the Day of the Lord*” come to an unbelieving world? What can we learn about this period from Paul’s metaphorical use of a thief in the night? Have you ever been robbed? What was it like? Is there anything you wish you could have done differently?
  
4. The expression “*the Day of the Lord*” goes all the way back to **Amos 5:18** (written 790-739 B.C.). What can we learn about that day from **Amos 5:18-20**? Why are railroad tracks a good illustration when looking at some Bible prophecies? What do the parallel tracks represent? What bright spot can be found in the Day of the Lord according to **Joel 2:30-32**?

5. During the first advent of Jesus Christ, He came as the tender Lamb of God. (See **John 1:29**) How will Jesus return at His Second Coming? (See **Rev. 5:5**) What does this mean for the world?
  
6. The Day of the Lord will catch unbelievers by surprise; it will arrive like a thief in the night. What can we learn about this day from **Luke 17:26-30**? According to **2 Thess. 2:3-4**, what major sign will occur before the Day comes? What is another name for “*the man of sin*?”
  
7. What can we learn about “*the man of sin*” from Jesus in **Matt. 24:15-22**? How severe will persecution be following Antichrist’s rise to power? What characteristics should we look for in Antichrist? According to **Matt. 24:32**, how deceptive will he be?
  
8. How will the unbelieving world feel about the way things are going in the world just before Antichrist suddenly changes direction on them (**vs. 3**)? (See **Dan. 9:26-27**) Why do you think so many people will be deceived by this evil leader?
  
9. In what way should a believer in Jesus Christ be different from an unbeliever when it comes to the Day of the Lord (**vs. 4**)? Should Christians be surprised at what we see happening in the world today? Why or why not? Have there been attempts in recent years to move toward a one world government?

**Part II: As Christians you are sons of the light and sons of the day (1 Thess. 5:4-8)**

1. What did Paul mean when he said, we as Christians “*are all sons of the light and sons of the day*” (**vs. 5**)? Why is it important for believers not to walk in the ways of the world? (See **John 8:12; Jam. 4:4**) What kind of changes have occurred in your life since coming to faith in Christ?

2. Webster's Dictionary defines "metaphor" as: "A figure of speech in which a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable, in order to suggest a resemblance." In **1 Thess. 4**, Paul used the metaphor of sleep to describe physical death. What did Paul use the metaphor of sleep to describe in **verse 6**?
  
3. What warning did Paul give to born-again Christians in **verse 6**? Why is it important for us to watch and be sober as the Day of the Lord approaches? Why is it important for Christians to understand the times and act accordingly? (See **1 Chron. 12:32**)
  
4. Warren Wiersbe writes, "To live expectantly means living in the light of His return, realizing that our works will be judged and that our opportunities for service on earth will end. It means to live 'with eternity's values in view.'" How do we live with eternity's values in view today?
  
5. What can we gather from **verse 7** about those who are spiritually disconnected and living an immoral lifestyle? Why is it so important for Christians to be actively involved in ministry today? What ministry are you involved serving in at your church? How are you redeeming your time wisely?
  
6. According to **verse 8**, how should we as Christians live today? In **verse 8**, Paul draws from the prophet Isaiah's illustration in **Isa. 59:17-18a**. In this illustration the Lord is portrayed as a warrior in armor. Why is it important for every born-again believer to be sober and to use the armor of God on a daily basis (**vs. 8**)? (See **1 Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 6:10-17**)
  
7. What should every Christian learn from **Rom. 13:11-14**? The last thing Christians living in the end times should be is spiritually asleep. Today we have approximately 7 billion people living on earth. How many of these people do you think have actually received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? What are you doing to reach the rest? Note: One thing you cannot do in heaven is evangelize. Satan does not want you to evangelize on earth, but Jesus does!

8. As Christians we are at war with a real and cruel enemy. The warfare we are fighting is spiritual warfare. What can we learn about this battle from **Eph. 6:12-13**? How should we be fighting this warfare today? (See **2 Cor. 10:4-5**) Why is it important for every Christian to demonstrate the three Christian virtues of faith, hope and love as we go through this battle?

### **Part III: For God did not appoint us to wrath but to obtain salvation in Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:9-11)**

1. Webster's Dictionary defines wrath as: "*Violent anger; vehement exasperation; indignation; rage; an angry act, esp. one of punishment.*" Given this terrifying definition, what do you think hell will be like for the lost who spend eternity facing God's unceasing wrath (**vs. 9**)? (See **Rev. 20:11-15**) What wonderful truth can we learn about born-again Christians from **verse 9**? What makes you thankful for the cross of Christ? (See **Rom. 5:8-9**)
2. What do you think Paul meant in **verses 9 & 10**? Christians in Thessalonica were dying, this led to a crisis of faith in the young church. Is suffering part of God's plan? Why is suffering so important to every Christian?
3. All of us go through difficult times in life. Why is it important for us to be there to comfort and build each other up during those difficult times? Have you ever hit a point of discouragement in your life? What helped you get through?
4. What is meant by a Christian walking in the light? What beautiful truth do we learn from **1 John 1:7**? Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer?

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Paul had already taught the Thessalonians about the day of the Lord on a previous visit.
- The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night to an unbelieving world.
- Sudden destruction will come upon the world while people claim peace and safety.
- Christians are to live as sons of the light and sons of the day no matter what they face.
- Christians are to watch and be sober as the Day of the Lord quickly approaches.
- It is important for Christians to wear the armor of God during the battles of life.
- God did not appoint His people to eternal wrath, but to salvation in Jesus Christ.
- Each Christian should be actively using his or her spiritual gifts to reach people for Christ.