

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

REVIEW...

- In the first 3 chapters of the Book - we are given INFORMATION about the church...
- Chapter 4 started the second section of the book – APPLICATION for the church
 - Paul URGED them to WALK in a way that PLEASED God by giving them COMMANDS...
 - The first three we looked – WALK in purity / WALK in love / WALK properly!
- The fourth command came last week as Paul answered a question from the church...
 - Paul did not want them to SORROW as those who have NO hope...
 - Those who are asleep in the Lord – died in FAITH – are in heaven – **II Corinthians 5:8**
 - And they will come WITH Jesus when he returns for us – RAPTURE of the church!
 - We will be caught up and be ALWAYS with the Lord – COMFORT one another with these words!

THE DAY OF THE LORD... (4 THINGS)

- 1ST – TIMES AND SEASONS... vs. 1
 - 1ST - Times – *chronos* / Seasons – *kairos*...
 - Both words carry the idea of KNOWING what will happen...
 - When we want to KNOW when to wake up / eat / work / sleep – we check the TIME...
 - When we want to KNOW if we should be in school / married / retired – check the SEASON...
 - **TIMES and SEASONS are how we will KNOW what to EXPECT will happen next!**
 - 2ND - This phrase is ONLY used twice in NT – here and **Acts 1:7**
 - Both times the emphasis is on KNOWING when Jesus will return to establish His Kingdom!
 - Paul having taught about the HOPE of those who died – and the RAPTURE...
 - Now is going to go on and talk about the what happens after the RAPTURE of the church!
- 2ND – THE DAY OF THE LORD... vs. 1-3
 - Apparently - Paul had ALREADY taught them about THE Day of the Lord...
 - We have NO NEED to write to you – you yourselves PERFECTLY (*accurately*) KNOW (*see*)!
 - The phrase THE Day of the Lord – is used 32 times in the Bible...
 - Used 27 times in the Old Testament / 5 times in the New Testament...
 - The companion term that precedes THE Day of the Lord is the LAST DAYS...
 - Peter uses both terms on Pentecost in **Acts 2:17-21** in reference to the birth of the church!
 - The LAST DAYS began with Pentecost – and will end with the RAPTURE of the church...
 - THE Day of the Lord - not a LITERAL day – begins with the RAPTURE of the church!
 - 1ST - THE Day of the Lord – begins like a THEIF in the NIGHT... vs. 2
 - The RAPTURE - from the Latin translation of the Greek word - *Harpazo*...
 - No one knows the exact day / hour - only the Father - **Mark 13:32**
 - Paul tells us here that it will happen as a THEIF in the night!
 - If someone told us tomorrow at 3am – a thief would break into our house...
 - We would be ready for him – and nothing would be stolen!
 - But no one knows when a thief will come – that is why they are able to steal!
 - **While we may not know when a thief will come – we can be prepared...**
 - **In the same way we may not know when Jesus will come – but we can be ready...**
 - **Spending time with Jesus through His Word - and through prayer...**
 - **Preparing ourselves for the day when we will see Him face to face!**
 - 2ND - THE Day of the Lord – will bring the illusion (*they will say*) PEACE and SAFETY... vs. 3

- PEACE – used 92x in NT – there will be PEACE in the Middle East...
 - Once the rapture happens – concluding the time of the gentiles / church – **Romans 11:25**
 - And God begins to work again through the nation of Israel - 70th week – **Daniel 9:27**
 - In the aftermath of the RAPTURE (*1 billion people disappear*) ...
 - And the Magog invasion (*God destroys armies of Russia and the Arabs*) - **Ezekiel 38**
 - The world will be in chaos – one man will step up offering PEACE and SAFETY!
 - But it will be an ILLUSION – because there is neither PEACE nor SAFETY...
 - It begins what is known as the time of Jacob’s trouble – **Jeremiah 30:7**
 - The 7 years of Tribulation laid out in **Revelation 6-18**...
 - When the Antichrist – the son of perdition will be revealed - **II Thessalonians 2:3**
 - **There is a good chance that this man is alive today – waiting for the right time...**
 - **Because he cannot be revealed until the church is removed – the RAPTURE...**
 - **If he revealed himself now – we would all know who he is – II Thessalonians 2:7**
- **Daniel 9:27** – the antichrist will confirm a PEACE treaty with Israel for 7 years...
 - This man has more than 30 titles in the Bible - the Man of Sin / the Son of Perdition...
 - The big mouth – **Daniel 7:8** / we most often refer to him as the Antichrist – **I John 2:18**
 - He will be a leader who will rise out of Europe – the little horn – **Daniel 7:8**...
 - He will make PEACE by offering to rebuild the 3rd Temple for Israel...
 - North of the Dome of the Rock (*monument*) – in a place called the Dome of the Spirit...
 - He will rebuild the Temple – as proof he is the messiah – and Jews will embrace him!
 - **John 5:43** - “I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.”
- SAFETY – *asphaleia* – used 3x in NT – STABILITY
 - He will bring STABILITY to governments / financial markets / and religion!
 - He will rule the worlds political system – he will be the government...
 - He will rule the worlds financial system – 666 – mark of the beast – **Revelation 13:16-18**
 - He will present himself as the Messiah – god come to earth - **Revelation 13:3-5**
 - But after 3 ½ years of the tribulation – he will enter the temple – into the Holiest of All...
 - There he will claim he is god – the Abomination of Desolation – **Matthew 24:15**
- o 3rd - THE Day of the Lord – will bring SUDDEN destruction...vs. 3
 - SUDDEN – 2x in NT – here and in **Luke 21:34** – meaning UNEXPECTED...
 - Not UNEXPECTED in we do not know it is coming – UNEXPECTED as to WHEN it will come!
 - Paul uses the additional illustration – like a woman who goes into labor...
 - The labor itself is NOT a surprise - WHEN she will go into labor can be quite the SHOCK!
 - And once it begins – there is NO stopping it – the baby is coming...
 - In the same way – once the destruction begins – there is NO ESCAPE (*to run away*)!
 - God will pour out His wrath and judgment on a God rejecting world!
 - Laid out in the Book of Revelation – 21 judgments in what we call the Tribulation!
 - They are broken up into 3 sets of 7 judgments – Seal / Trumpet / and Bowl judgments...
 - The terror will be so great - unless God limited it – no one would survive!
 - **Isaiah 13:6** – “The Day of the Lord is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.”
 - Many will be like the people in the days of Noah!
 - **Luke 17:26** – Men were eating / drinking / marrying – right up to the flood...
 - Men were going on with their lives – assuming tomorrow would be like today!
 - They were completely unprepared for the day when the judgement of God arrived!
 - **So many people today are just going about their daily lives - oblivious...**
 - **They assume they have all the time in the world - tomorrow will be just like today...**
 - **They do realize that Jesus is coming soon - judgment is right around the corner!**

- o 4th – THE Day of the Lord – is the return of Jesus Christ...
 - At the end of the 7 years of Tribulation...
 - The Antichrist will gather his army to the Valley of Megiddo - **Revelation 19:11-21**
 - Then Jesus will come out of Heaven on a white horse – King of Kings / Lord of Lords...
 - He will return with us – ten thousands of His saints – **Jude 1:14**
 - With one word he will defeat the Antichrist and his army – **II Thessalonians 2:8!**
 - And the Antichrist will be the first to be thrown into the Lake of Fire – **Revelation 19:20!**
 - Then Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives - **Zachariah 14:4**...
 - The mountain will split in two – water will come out – giving life to the Dead Sea...
 - 30 days after the Return of Jesus – 1290 days after the Abomination – **Daniel 12:11**...
 - Jesus will judge the nations – those who survived the Tribulation – **Matthew 25:31-46**
 - Then Jesus will establish His Millennial Kingdom - **Revelation 20:1-4!**
 - Then we – the church - will rule and reign with Him for 1000 years – **I Corinthians 6:2-3**
 - At the end of the 1000 year reign - the 2nd Magog invasion ...
 - Satan – who was chained in the bottomless pit - **Revelation 20:3** – is released...
 - He will deceive the nations into one final rebellion against God - **Revelation 20:7-8**
 - But God will devour them by fire – and satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire!
 - Then all will stand before the throne of God to be judged for the works of their lives...
 - **Revelation 20:11-12** – “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it... And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God...”
 - There will be two sets of books opened - the books and the Book of Life...
 - If your name is not found written in the Book of Life – the Books are opened...
 - Then you are then judged according to your works – written in The Books...
 - Everything you do - every word you say - every thought you think...
 - Not to see if you will go to heaven or hell – but to show you why you go to hell!
- o 5th – THE Day of the Lord – is the end... vs. 11
 - The conclusion of THE Day of the Lord – is the destruction of the earth...
 - The heaven and earth will pass away with a great noise...
 - The elements will MELT with FERVENT HEAT – **II Peter 3:10**
 - Jesus will let go – **Colossians 1:16** – and the universe will erupt in a nuclear inferno!
 - Then God will create a – prefect – sinless – NEW heaven / NEW earth - **Revelation 21-22**
 - Where those who believe in Jesus will live with Him forever!
 - Everything in this life is destined to burn – we cannot take any of it with us...
 - People strive their whole lives to find success – but what is success worth apart from God...
 - We might end up rich – but all we really get is a lot of NICE FIREWOOD!
 - Therefore - do not miss the purpose of life by devoting time to something that is doomed...
 - How much better to invest our time and efforts into a Kingdom that will never fade!
 - Invest is something that we can take with us to heaven – people we share Jesus with!
- 3RD – LIGHT AND DARKNESS... VS. 4-5 (2 POINTS)
 - o 1st – We are NOT in darkness... vs. 4
 - BRETHREN (*those who know Jesus*) – we are NOT in darkness (*indicative*)...
 - **John 8:12** - “I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life...”
 - As a result - THIS day (*Day of the LORD*) MIGHT not OVERTAKE us as a THIEF!
 - OVERTAKE (*subjunctive*) – to find / capture – we SHOULD NOT be found unprepared...
 - Because we have Jesus – we are in the LIGHT – we KNOW the TIMES and SEASONS!

- We tend to look at the TIMES and SEASONS – and think we still have TIME...
- But we are in the last days – THE Day of the Lord could be today – right now!
- Are we ready – if Jesus came back like a THIEF – would we be READY...
- Jesus is coming VERY soon – we need to be constantly prepared - so we are not OVERTAKEN!
- o 2nd – We are sons of light... vs. 5
 - We are (*indicative*) the children of the day and light...
 - We are NOT (*indicative*) the children of the dark and night!
 - Paul emphasizing there are ONLY two families that we can belong to...
 - We are either the Children of God - or the children of this world (*satan*) – **John 8:44**
 - Once we are born again – children of LIGHT - we have been delivered from DARKNESS!
 - We no longer belong to this world - we have changed our citizenship!
 - **Ephesians 5:8** – “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. WALK as children of light...”
- 4TH – WAKE UP.... vs. 6-10 (4 POINTS)
 - o 1st – THEREFORE - since we are sons of LIGHT... vs. 6
 - DO NOT sleep - (*ou me SUBJUNCTIVE*) – the most powerful negation in Greek!
 - SLEEP – used 4x in our passage - not the same word as from chapter 4 (*death*)...
 - It speaks of an apathy or indifference to the TIMES and SEASONS!
 - We NEED to make sure that we do NOT SLEEP – NOT caught off guard – as OTHERS do...
 - Instead we are to are to WATCH and be SOBER...
 - WATCH (*subjunctive*) – 23x in NT from a root word that means to WAKE UP!
 - SOBER (*subjunctive*) – *nepho* - 6x in NT – to be calm and aware / observant!
 - Why – because we have an ENEMY who would love for us to be caught off guard...
 - **I Peter 5:8** – “Be sober, be vigilant [same words]; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”
 - Satan would love to keep us distracted – not thinking about the return of Jesus!
 - If he can get us CAUGHT up in this life – he might be able to get us CAUGHT off guard!
 - o 2nd – THEREFORE - do NOT get drunk... vs. 7
 - Those who sleep at NIGHT / also drink – get drunk at NIGHT...
 - In other words - those who are NOT watching and NOT sober are of the NIGHT!
 - They are in DARKNESS (*night*) – and do NOT know the Lord is coming soon!
 - **Romans 13:11** - “Knowing the time, that now it is high time to WAKE UP out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed...”
 - Because they are in DARKNESS – they get DRUNK...
 - DRUNK – only 3x in NT – to be intoxicated with alcohol...
 - In other words - they choose to live for this life – rather than look for Jesus Christ...
 - They make the mistake of thinking that Jesus is NOT coming soon - so they can get drunk!
 - **Luke 12:45** – “That servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins... [to] drink and be drunk [same word].”
 - The Bible does not say you cannot drink- it does say it is a sin to be drunk...
 - When full of alcohol we will NOT be living a life that is LOOKING for Jesus...
 - Instead of being filled with alcohol - much better to be filled with the Holy Spirit!
 - Then we will act like children of LIGHT – and WATCH and be SOBER for the Lord!
 - **Ephesians 5:18** – “Do not be drunk [same word] with wine... but be filled with the Spirit.”
 - o 3rd – THEREFORE - prepare for WAR... vs. 8
 - Let (*subjunctive*) us who are of the DAY be SOBER (*subjunctive*)...
 - We can be SOBER by putting on the ARMOR of God – so we are ready for the battle...
 - This is one of four places in the NT where we read about the armor of God...

- **II Corinthians 6:7** – “The armor of righteousness on our right hand and on our left...”
- **Ephesians 6:13** – “Therefore take up the whole armor of God...” (*most complete list*)
- Here we are told to put on the BREASTPLATE of FAITH and LOVE...
- And the HELMET of HOPE and SALVATION!
- But the best of all 4 verses is **Romans 13:14** – put on the Armor of light – Jesus Christ!
- The idea of all these verses being we are going into BATTLE...
 - Like any good soldier we need to prepare ourselves for the battle...
 - NOT to get caught up in the CARES of this life so we get CAUGHT off guard!
 - **II Timothy 2:4** – “No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”
- 4th – We are NOT appointed to WRATH... vs. 9-10
 - APPOINTED – used 96x in NT – the place or to put down...
 - It is not the desire or plan of God to place us in the WRATH that is to come...
 - When God will pour out His wrath and judgment on a God rejecting world!
 - Laid out in the Book of Revelation – 21 judgments in what we call the Tribulation!
 - They are broken up into 3 sets of 7 judgments – Seal / Trumpet / and Bowl judgments...
 - The terror will be so great - unless God limited it – no one would survive – **Mark 13:20**
 - **I Thessalonians 1:10** – “Jesus who rescues us from the wrath to come.”
 - Instead His desire is we OBTAIN salvation through Jesus Christ who died for us...
 - OBTAIN – only used 5x in NT – a word that means to preserve / or possess...
 - That whether we WAKE or SLEEP we should (*both subjunctive*) live together with Him!
 - God PURCHASED us through Jesus – there is no way He WANTS to pour His wrath on us!
 - Whether we WAKE or SLEEP seems to suggest EITHER way we avoid the WRATH...
 - But it more likely represents the CHOICE – to either be AWAKE or ASLEEP...
 - That we MIGHT (*subjunctive*) live together with Him – RAPTURE – if we are AWAKE!
 - We NEED to make sure we are ready for His return – WATCHING / SOBER!
- 5th – THE COMMANDS.... vs. 11 (2 POINTS)
 - 1st – Therefore COMFORT one another...1
 - COMFORT (*imperative*) – *parakaleō* – to encourage or come along side...
 - As we see the world around us going crazy – and we KNOW judgement is coming!
 - Up is down / right is wrong – and the truth becomes spoken of as evil - **Isaiah 5:20**
 - It is VERY encouraging to be reminded that we will NOT go through the WRATH to come!
 - 2nd – EDIFY one another...
 - EDIFY (*imperative*) – 39x in NT – to build a house – ESTABLISH...
 - **Matthew 25:1-13** – Jesus gave the parable of the 10 virgins...
 - There were 10 women were waiting for THE Wedding – but the Groom was delayed...
 - They expected the Lord to return soon – but He was taking longer than expected!
 - Jesus is not slow in coming – He just desires many more come to salvation - **II Peter 3:9**
 - If Jesus had come back 40/20/10/5 years ago – how many of us would have gone!
 - The virgins fell asleep / some of their lights went out – excitement of Jesus coming wore off!
 - Those who were not AWAKE / SOBER – had to leave to buy more oil for their lamps...
 - When they returned they asked – Lord / Lord – open the door for us...
 - He said – I do not know you- He knew who should come in because He found them waiting!
 - It is easy to be excited when we hear Jesus is coming soon for His church...
 - It is also easy to lose that excitement in the worries of life – care of this world...
 - We NEED to EDIFY – ESTABLISH each other – lest we forget Jesus is on His way!