

Heads Up!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Introduction

I Paul's Warning to the Church

- A. The futility of setting **times**/dates - Mt 24:3,36; Acts 1:7-8
- B. The suddenness of the day of the Lord: - Amos 5:18-20; Obadiah 15; Joel 1:15; Malachi 4:5
 - 1. He will come like a **thief** in the night - Mt 24:42-44
 - 2. While people are saying peace and safety:
 - a. **Destruction** will come on suddenly - Mt 24:37-44
 - b. As labor pains on a pregnant woman - Isa 13:6-9
 - 3. They will not **escape** - Amos 9:1-4

II Paul's Affirmation of the Church

- A. You are not in the **darkness**: - Col 1:13-14; 1 Pt 3:20
 - 1. So that this day should surprise you like a thief
- B. You are all sons of the **light** and sons of the day - Mt 5:14
 - 1. We do not belong to the night or darkness - Eph 5:8-10
- C. Let us not be like others who are **asleep** - Rom 13:11-14
- D. Let us be **alert** and self-controlled for: - 1 Pt 5:8-9
 - 1. Those who sleep, sleep at night
 - 2. Those who get **drunk**, get drunk at night - Lk 21:34-36
- E. But since we belong to the day:
 - 1. Let us be self-**controlled** - 1 Pt 1:13; 4:7
 - 2. Let us put on:
 - a. Faith and love as a **breastplate** - Isa 59:17
 - b. The hope of salvation as a **helmet** - Eph 6:13-18

III Paul's Encouragement for the Church

- A. God did not appoint us to suffer **wrath** - 1Ths 1:9-10; Jn 3:36
- B. God appointed us to receive **salvation** through our Lord JC
 - 1. He died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep:
 - a. We may live together with him - 1 Pt 3:18

- C. Therefore, keep doing what you're doing:
 - 1. **Encourage** one another - Heb 10:24-25
 - 2. **Build** each other up - Rom 14:19

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Does the thought of Christ's return encourage or frighten you?
2. Why are some people determined to discover the date/time of Christ's return when the Bible is so clear that only God knows? What are the benefits of not knowing that information?
3. What evidence is there that you are no longer in the "darkness" but are now walking in the "light"? Are there any areas where you are sleepwalking spiritually or intoxicated by the world?
4. Paul commanded the believers in Thessalonica to be alert, self-controlled and to put on the armor of God. Is this a part of your normal day as a believer? Why or why not?
5. Some emphasize the doctrine of election - Jn 6:44; 6:65; Eph 1:3-6. Others, the doctrine of free will - Jn 3:16; Rom 10:9-10. How do you reconcile these two teachings?
6. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What practical things can you do to encourage and build up your fellow believers as we await our Lord's return? How can others encourage you?
7. Read 1 Jn 2:28 and 2 Cor 5:10. Are you ready for Jesus to return? If not, what do you need to do to prepare?

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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