

## Chapter 5

### *The Day of the Lord*

- 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 <sup>b</sup>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 <sup>b</sup>like a thief;*
- 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;*
- 6 so then let us not sleep as <sup>b</sup>others do, but let us be alert and <sup>c</sup>sober.*
- 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.*
- 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober (self-controlled), having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.*
- 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.*
- 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.*

### Pray

In these chapters Paul turns from the "rapture" of the church into the broader subject of the "day of the Lord". What is the "day of the Lord". It is not a day at all, but a time and an era/epoch. It is that time when GOD will come to judge, deliver his people, and establish His kingdom.

He is saying that all know that the day of the Lord will come someday in a sudden way. The world will have no warning. It will be like a "thief in the night". These come around

under a cover of darkness. They come without warning. In that same way, the coming of the Lord will be unexpected and sudden.

Verse 3 tells us what things will be like in society when the Lord comes. They will be saying "Peace and safety" like the day prior to having your child and then labor will come and the birth of the end will happen. It's like the night before Faber 4 was born, I was planning to go duck hunting the next day. Notice that it says for "them". But WE, believers, will not be taken by surprise. We don't know when He's coming, but we know He is going to come and we have some idea of the conditions that will be in existence when He comes. I don't think believers will be surprised. We know He's coming but we don't know exactly when that will happen. We spend our time preparing for that event.

v. 5-6 *so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and 'sober.*

The world is oblivious, and in that day people will just continue to be wrapped up in their worldly "stuff". He talks about you and me as alert, awake, watching, and ready. Are you wrapped up in the world? We all know we need to be "in the world", but we should never be "in the world" so much that the things of the world are central in our lives as opposed to the things of God.

Look for a moment at Mark Chapter 4 - The parable of the sower. It isn't just about hearing the gospel. Remember the instance of the 3rd person?

*<sup>18</sup> Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; <sup>19</sup> but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>20</sup> Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."*

Those things come in and make the world unfruitful. This is talking about believers, not unbelievers. These are the details of life that just overwhelm us. It stunts our growth. It PUTS US TO SLEEP to spiritual things. Believers can get so wrapped up in the world that we fall asleep.

Paul says we need to have "self control" from running after the things of the world. The things of the world will not make us secure or give us true long lasting happiness.

Now... back to 1 Thessalonians 5:7

*7For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.*

*8But since we are of the day, let us be sober (self-controlled), having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.*

Faith and love are a breastplate for us and a helmet on our minds is our hope of salvation (deliverance). Yes, our faith brings us salvation immediately, but our deliverance will take place for the rest of our lives. This is a HOPE that is founded in the assuredness of God's word. The things we "hope for", we know with certainty.

Then Paul makes a statement in verse 9.

*9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

This is one more instance the Bible shows us that God doesn't reserve wrath for His believing church. We ARE NOT DESTINED FOR WRATH. In that time, unbelievers will be longing for the release of death and it will not come.

Don't be confused. In scripture Israel is told to look at the coming of the Lord differently. This is written to Israel and not the church. Israel is still Israel. The church is not Israel. God still loves Israel. The "day of the Lord" will not be pretty for Israel.

Look at Amos 5:18

*<sup>8</sup> Woe to you who long*

*for the day of the LORD!*

*Why do you long for the day of the LORD?*

*That day will be darkness, not light.*

*<sup>19</sup> It will be as though a man fled from a lion*

*only to meet a bear,*

*as though he entered his house*

*and rested his hand on the wall*

*only to have a snake bite him.*

*<sup>20</sup> Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light—*

*pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?*

It will be like jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

But the "day of the Lord" for the church is different.  
Rev 22

*17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. ....*  
*20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."*

For us it will be a day of joy. It will be a marriage day.

Verse 10 - tells us that this for the live believers and believers who are asleep.

Remember the popular positions/viewpoints for the timing of the rapture:

The **post tribulation** rapture - we're taken up AFTER the 7 year tribulation

The **pre-wrath** rapture - taken before the stuff really gets bad

The **mid-tribulation** rapture - we're taken up in the MIDDLE of the 7 year tribulation

The **pre-tribulation** rapture - we're taken up BEFORE the 7 year tribulation

This should never separate believers. It doesn't matter. As you all know, I ascribe to the pre-tribulation rapture because as it says in this passage, the church is not "destined for wrath". Paul is clear that we're not appointed to that.

To Israel, it is a day of woe.

To the Church, it is a day of blessing.

*v. 11 Encourage one another with these words as you're doing.*

I want to encourage you all this evening. I think Paul was saying that we have an encouraging message. We are appointed unto salvation. God loves us. Jesus is coming and it could be at anytime.

AMEN.