

1 THESSALONIANS SESSION 3

Review: Last time we went through chapters 3 and 4 which included instructions in sanctification. Sanctification is the about living in a manner that pleases God. Paul stated that these commands came from Jesus Christ himself. He touched on three main areas in a Christian's life – purity, honesty, and charity and he reveals the rapture of the church and it's order. When Christ appears, the dead in Christ rise first and the living saints are then translated, and we all meet the Lord in the air to never be separated again. We are instructed to comfort one another with this knowledge.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. *All Christians have an interest in knowing future events. A great amount of scripture is prophecy, and it should be studied, taught and discussed BUT there is no point in looking for some cryptic code in scripture to reveal the time of the appearing of Christ. No one knows because it is meant to be a surprise, and it will be! Paul uses an interesting phrase "the day of the Lord" but what does it refer to? The day of the Lord is not a 24-hour period. It refers to the time when God will openly intervene in human history, bringing about salvation, judgments, restoration, and includes Christ's millennial kingdom on the earth. It is kicked off by the rapture of the church and it's concluded when heaven and earth are destroyed, and God makes them new.*

- **The punishment of the ungodly - Obadiah 15** For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head. **Joel 1:15** Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.
- **The judgment of nations - Joel 3:14** Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.
- **The time of Jacob's trouble - Jeremiah 30:7** Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.
- **The battle of Armageddon - Joel 2:11** And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?
- **The second coming of Christ - Matthew 24:29-30** Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And

then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

- **Christ's kingdom on earth - Isaiah 2:2-4** And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
- **New Heaven and Earth - Isaiah 65:17** For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

The day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night! A thief doesn't send a note in advance. He doesn't give a date and time. He comes at a time when you are not expecting him.

Matthew 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. *This verse refers to a time after the rapture and marks the destruction coming at a time when peace and safety are proclaimed. The antichrist is prophesied as coming in with words of peace - Daniel 11:21* And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-8 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. *The day of the Lord will catch unbelievers unaware, but it shouldn't be a surprise to Christians. Unbelievers are children of darkness and of the night meaning they have no understanding about spiritual realities. The danger is in Christians going to sleep or being drunken which is a reference to being too comfortable in this world or being intoxicated with cares and pleasures of this life. This drunkenness has*

*nothing to do with alcohol - **Luke 21:34** And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. *Jesus said repeatedly to watch and pray to guard ourselves from this* - **Mark 13:32-33** But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. *Christians are not appointed to God's wrath because Christ took our wrath on the cross. The rapture of the church will be our escape before the outpouring of God's judgment.*

Question: If Christians are not appointed to wrath but to obtain salvation at Christ's appearing, then why should they watch and pray? *Because you can be ashamed before Christ at his coming* - **1 John 2:28** And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And be at peace among yourselves. The early church was led by a counsel of elders. Apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers. He instructs them to know them – have a good relationship and friendship with these men. Esteem them highly in love for their work's sake because the work is sacred.*

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*. See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*. *Shepherding a flock of God's people requires patience because everybody is in different places and seasons in their life. Some need comfort because they are weak in the mind, others need support because they are weak physically or financially, some need to be confronted in love when they are disregarding restraint and causing division. The golden rule of the faith is to not pay back evil when evil has been done to you. The flesh wants revenge, and the Lord wants to avenge!*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. *When these seven commands are observed and obeyed, they keep*

Christians healthy. The commands are easy to understand and sometimes hard to do. Rejoice evermore – stir up the joy of the Lord that resides in you through memory, songs, scripture...Pray without ceasing – don't let your prayer life stagnate and die...In everything give thanks – keep an attitude of gratitude...Quench not the Spirit – flow with the Spirit in obedience, don't smother His influences...Despise not prophesyings – prophecy is to speak a divinely inspired message from God...Prove all things; hold fast that which is good – have spiritual discernment about what is good and put away what isn't(not everything is in the Bible)...Abstain from all appearance of evil – run away from everything that is against the word or the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*. These verses reveal that we are a trinity just like God is a trinity. He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and we are body, soul, and spirit. Following the seven commands given produces sanctification in the life of the believer.

1 Thessalonians 5:25-28 Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss. I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen. The first *epistle* unto the Thessalonians was written from Athens. Paul concludes by asking for prayer, sending greetings to all the church, and commanding that his letter be read to everyone. This letter begins and ends with grace.