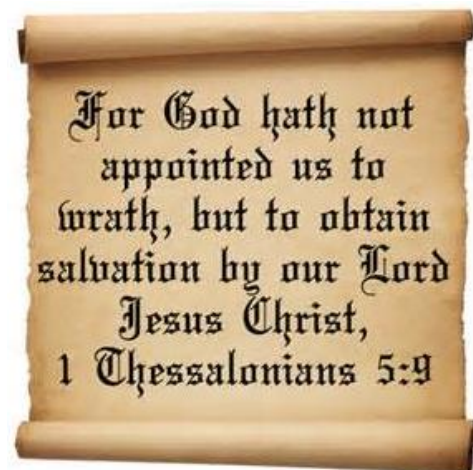
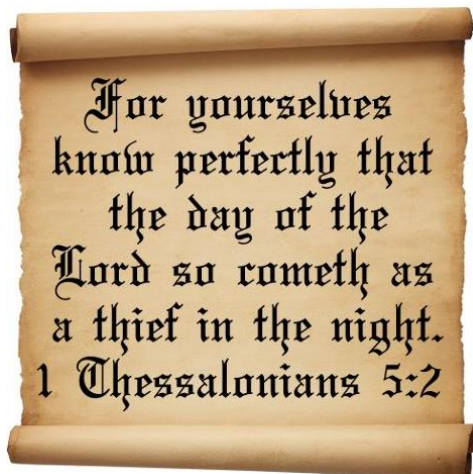




Paul reminds believers that we are exempt from persecution in that future day of the Lord's wrath - the Great Tribulation period; a time that will overtake the world like a thief in the night. Paul warns all believers to not be caught off guard - to not be found sleeping. Paul instructs us to watch and be sober, to comfort and edify one another with the assurance that our salvation is through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Outline

- Preview Introduction
- Day Of The Lord 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3
- Sleep Not 1 Thessalonians 5:4-7
- Not Appointed for Wrath 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11



Truths & Principles

- ✓ Only God the Father knows the time of our Lord's return to earth.
- ✓ The Lord's return for His saints can come at any moment, as a thief in the night, *i.e., suddenly and expectantly*.
- ✓ God did not appoint us to wrath, but to salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ✓ We will live with Jesus forever, regardless of whether we are alive or dead when He returns.

Applications

- ✓ We need to watch and wait in a spirit of expectancy for the Lord's return.
- ✓ Knowing the Jesus can return at any moment should affect the way we live.
- ✓ We need to watch and be serious about the Lord's return.
- ✓ We need to walk in the light and not in darkness; *righteous not unrighteous living*.
- ✓ Comfort others with the blessed hope of Christ's return for all His saints.



Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

1. Paul does not have to write the brethren about what (5:1)? _____
2. The day of the Lord will come as what (5:2)? _____
3. What will they say before there is sudden destruction (5:3)? _____
4. The sudden destruction will come as what (5:3)? _____
5. What contract is Paul making in these verses (5:4-5)? _____
6. We are not to sleep but to do what (5:6)? _____
7. What happens at night (5:7)? _____
8. What are we to put on (5:8)? _____
9. God did not appoint us to what (5:9)? _____
10. What is the promise, whether we wake or sleep (5:10)? _____
11. What are the two things we need to do (5:11)? _____

Study Questions

1. Consider Paul's description of the day of the Lord – VERSES 1-3.
 - ❖ What is the distinction between times and seasons?
 - ❖ What does the phrase “*day of the Lord*” mean?
 - ❖ What do the Scriptures say about those who set dates for Christ's return?
 - ❖ Sudden destruction is compared to labor pains in VERSE 3. Why do you think that is?
2. Reflect on Paul's depiction of how we should live in light of Christ's return - VERSES 4-7.
 - ❖ What does it mean to be overtaken as thief in the night?
 - ❖ Do you see a parallel with what Jesus described in the Olivet Discourse regarding the way the prediluvians were living just before the flood and how people will be living just before Christ returns - MATTHEW 24:36-44.
3. Ponder VERSES 8-11 in light of Paul's declaration that God did not appoint us to wrath.
 - ❖ Paul is making a comparison between “sleeping and drunk” and “awake and sober”.
 - What practical ways can we be “awake and sober”?
 - ❖ Paul uses one of his favorite triplets here in VERSE 8; faith, love and hope.
 - How do these terms mentioned here relate to 1 THESSALONIANS 1:3?
 - How do these terms mentioned here relate to EPHESIANS 6:10-20?
 - ❖ Paul, in VERSE 9, uses the terms “did not appoint us” and “to obtain” in contrasting the “avoidance of wrath” and the “procurement of salvation”, respectively.
 - Contemplate Paul's use of the term “appoint”, which emphasizes God's sovereignty, and Paul's use of the term “obtain”, which emphasizes man's effort.