

**"LIVING IN ANTICIPATION OF THE COMING DAY OF THE LORD"**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

**INTRO:** We are living in both **EXCITING AND SERIOUS TIMES!** The times are **EXCITING** because we are seeing prophecy being fulfilled before our very own eyes and the **RAPTURE IS GETTING CLOSER!** The times are **SERIOUS** because the attitudes and the actions of society are rejecting biblical truth, denying godly principles and opposing the work of Christ. It seems like every day the **BASIC ABSOLUTES OF SCRIPTURE ARE BEING AGGRESSIVELY TORN APART BY SECULAR AND HUMANISTIC THOUGHT.** All of this is to be expected as we draw closer to the **RETURN OF CHRIST** and anticipate the **COMING DAY OF THE LORD.** But **HOW ARE WE AS CHRISTIANS TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND US?** Under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit the Apostle Paul gives us clear direction in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

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**I. THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN LIGHT OF THE DAY OF THE LORD**

**VSS. 1-5**

**A. The Reality of the Day of the Lord Vss. 1-3**

**1. Verse One:**

a. "Times and Seasons" speak of the **CHARACTER** of the age just prior to the coming of the Day of the Lord.

b. Paul did not need to write to the Thessalonians about the "Times and the Seasons" because they had an understanding of them.

**2. Verse Two:**

**a. The Day of the Lord Defined**

1) The phrase "Day of the Lord" is used throughout scripture to speak of the **JUDGMENT OF GOD!**

2) In reference to the time in which we live, the "Day of the Lord" speaks of future **JUDGMENT OF GOD UPON THE EARTH BEFORE THE ETERNAL STATE IS USHERED IN BY CHRIST.**

**b. The Day of the Lord Described**

1) It will come as a "Thief in the Night." **UNEXPECTED!**

2) It will come in Two Waves.

a) The Rapture followed by the Tribulation - 2 Thessalonians 2

b) The Second Coming to Earth followed of the world

-Revelation 19,20

**3. Verse Three:**

a. The World will be **OBLIVIOUS** to the Coming Judgment

b. The Bible records **ILLUSTRATIONS** of how the world has always been **OBLIVIOUS** to the coming of Judgment.

1) In the Days of Noah - 1 Peter 3:20

2) In the Days of Sodom and Gomorrah - Genesis 19

3) In the Days of the Destruction of Jerusalem - Luke 21

**B. The Relief from the Day of the Lord - Vss. 4,5**

**FOR THE CHRISTIAN ONLY!**

**1. Verse 4:**

a. The Christian is not in darkness as darkness speaks of living in the **SIN OF UNBELIEF!**

b. The Non-Christian lives in darkness- John 3:19

c. The Day of the Lord will **NOT** overtake the Christian.

**2. Verse 3:**

a. Christians will **ESCAPE** the Day of the Lord because we are Children of Light being related to Christ who is the **LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**

b. This concept is taught throughout scripture.

Matthew 5:14-16; John 8:12; Ephesians 5:8; 1 John 1:5-7

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**II. THE COMMANDS IN LIGHT OF THE DAY OF THE LORD**

**VSS. 6-8**

**APPLICABLE TO BELIEVERS ONLY!**

**A. The Divine Exhortation - Vss. 5-7**

1. The Negative Exhortation - **"DO NOT SLEEP"**
    - a. Avoid being spiritually and culturally **INDIFFERENT, SLUGGISH AND COMFORTABLE!**
    - b. This is the condition and problem with many Christians today and being so is **SIN!** Note: Ephesians 5:14-17
  2. The Positive Exhortation - **"WATCH AND BE SOBER"**
    - a. Be alert of the moral and spiritual conditions around us!
    - b. The Christian **MUST** be alert of the spiritual conditions of the world if he/she is going to effectively minister to the world.
- B. The Dutiful Exercise - Vs. 8
1. Exercise our Faith
    - a. Stand firmly for the Principles of the Faith
    - b. Depend upon the Lord for the Strength to Stand
  2. Exercise our Love
    - a. Show the Love of Christ to All.
    - b. Treat all with the Lord of Christ.
  3. Exercise our Hope
    - a. Stand firm upon every aspect of our Salvation.
    - b. Realize the fullness of our Salvation is yet to come at the Rapture.

ILLUSTRATION:

### **III. THE COMFORT IN LIGHT OF THE DAY OF THE LORD**

#### **VSS. 9-11**

A. Christians are Not Appointed to God's Wrath - Vs. 9 (Cp. 1:10)

1. The Great Tribulation
2. The Eternal Lake of Fire

B. Christians are Alive in Christ - Vs. 10

C. Christians are to Encourage Each other - Vs. 11

1. To Stand Strong in the Faith
2. To Look forward to the Rapture

#### **TO BE DONE THROUGH LOCAL CHURCH INVOLVEMENT**

-HEBREWS 10:25

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSONS:

- 1) Spiritual and Sinful Conditions in the world will continue to get more and more sinful as we get closer to the Rapture and the Day of the Lord.
- 2) Christians are **NOT** to just sit back and watch the spiritual and sinful conditions deteriorate.
- 3) Christians are to **AGGRESSIVELY AND SERIOUSLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH!**
  - By Knowing the Word of God
  - By Encouraging one another through the Local Church
  - By Refusing to Compromise with the world.
  - By Living out the principles of Scripture in the world around us.
  - By Revealing what the Scripture says about the individual events of the day