Women’s Bible Study

I & II Thessalonians

**Seventh Study** - **I Thessalonians Chapter Five verses 1-11**

# “Christ’s Sudden and Unexpected Return”

**Studies in I&II Thessalonians Pages 38 through 40 (using Lesson 8)**

Once again, the questions from Rev. Hanko’s Study Guides are in parenthesis after the questions.

All quotes by Wm. Hendrikson are from his New Testament Commentary on I & II Thessalonians

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**\_\_Day One\_**

**Christ’s Return**

## We begin this lesson by looking more into Paul’s teaching to the Thessalonians concerning Christ’s Return.

**I Thessalonians 5:1&2 - Study Guide page 38**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 5: 1-11 Matthew 24:32-46 Mark 13:32-37 II Thess. 2:1-4

**Do:**

1. Read the introduction to Lesson Eight on page 38 in Rev. Hanko’s Study Guide.

1. The time and manner of Christ’s return. (#2 pg. 38)

 Can we know the exact time Christ will return? (Q. 2.a.pg.38)

 Acts 1:7

 Matthew 24:36

 Matthew 24:43-44

3. Why did Paul write ‘ye have no need that I write unto you’?

1. Can we say we know Christ will not return this year?

 Could that make us careless?

**Food for thought:** Christ cannot come yet. He cannot come at any time. Christ cannot come at any moment, except in our death. He can only come after certain events take place. According to II Thessalonians 2:1-4, that day cannot come until there is a falling away and until the Antichrist sets up his kingdom. From notes of Prof. D. Engelsma’s lectures on Eschatology

 “Christ’s return is determined by God with just exactly one thing in view. That one thing is, according to II Peter 3:9, that the last of His elect people may be saved. Christ tarries until the last one of those chosen from before the foundation of the world is born and regenerated. Before that moment He cannot come.”

 Rev. J. Heys in the Standard Bearer article: As a Thief in the Night

**To take with you: I Thessalonians 5:1&2**

**“Those who watch do not need to be told when the hour will come,**

 **For they are always ready.”** Jamison, Fausset, Brown

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### \_Day Two\_

**Christ Comes ‘as’ a Thief in the Night**

Today we will see what it means that Christ will come ‘as’ a thief in the night.

### I Thessalonians 5:2 - Study Guide page 38

**Read:** I Thessalonians 5:1&2 Matthew 24:42-44 Luke 12:37-40

 II Peter 3:10 Rev. 3:3 Rev. 16:15 Continued…..

**\_\_Day 2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, cont.**

**Do:** 1. What does it mean that “Christ so cometh as a thief in the night”? (Q.2.b.pg.38)

 Matthew 24:43

 II Peter 3:10

 Revelation 3:3

 Revelation 16:15

1. What would you say describes the way a thief comes in the night?
2. How does that describe Christ’s coming?

**Food for thought:**

 “ ‘Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments.’ So speaks Christ in Rev. 16:15. ‘But of the times and the seasons brethren ye have no need that I write you for yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.’ Thus the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica. Peter similarly writes to the church that begins to wonder why the Lord tarries, ‘But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night’, II Peter 3:10. The thief comes at night when all in the house are fast asleep. Had he seen a light in the house indicating that all had not yet retired, he would not have entered. His visit can be a surprise and is such simply because the dwellers in that home were not aware of his entrance do to their slumber….Are you asleep? Are you exercising that wonderful faculty of seeing by faith? Are you looking at all things that occur about you from the viewpoint of the promises God has given us in the Scriptures? Is the promise and the reality of the coming of Christ before you day after day?” Rev. J. Heys in the S.B. article: As a Thief in the Night

 “The thief takes the owner of the house by surprise. He does not send a warning letter to this effect. ‘tomorrow, at such and such a time, I’ll pay you a visit. Be sure to hide all your valuables.’ He comes *suddenly* and *unexpectedly.* So also will be the coming of the day of the Lord (that is the day of his arrival unto judgment). Hence, it is foolish to inquire about the *how long* and the *when.* However, the comparison holds also another, closely related respect; the thief generally finds people *unprepared*. But here the comparison is true only with respect to unbelievers, not with respect to believers.” Wm. Hendrikson

**To take with you today: Revelation 16:15**

**“The people of God watch for the day of the Lord.**

**Physically they may sleep and must sleep.**

 **Spiritually they are always alert, looking, waiting, watching in hope.”** Rev. Heys

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#### \_\_Day Three\_

**Christ’s Sudden and Destructive Coming**

Today we will learn for whom Christ’s coming will be sudden and destructive.

#### I Thessalonians 5:3 - Study Guide page 39

**Read:** I Thessalonians 5:1-4 Deut. 29:10-20 Matthew 24:37-39

 Luke 17:26-30 Luke 21:34-36 I Peter 3:1-10

**Do:**

1. For whom will Christ’s coming be sudden and destructive? (Q. 2.c. Page 39)

 verse 3

 Matthew 24:37-44

 Luke 17:26-30

 II Peter 3: 1-10 Continued….

**\_\_Day 3 cont\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. So who is meant by ‘they’ in verse three?
2. What are ‘they’ saying, in other words, what do they think about their situation in life?
3. What kind of peace do they have?

Deut. 29:10-20

Daniel 5:1-6

1. Are we in danger of letting ourselves feel that way?
2. How can we avoid that danger and teach that to our children?

**Food for thought:** “When Peter says that the ‘Day of the Lord’ will come upon them as a thief, this must refer to this day in reference to the wicked unbelievers and scoffers. Sudden destruction shall fall upon them. Notwithstanding their mockery and scoffing, yea by very reason of their mockery and scoffing, this Day of the Lord shall come upon them as a thief in the night… The wicked unbelievers never give heed. They cannot! They do not have a sincere mind, which may be stirred up by the word of the holy Prophets, nor can they give heed to the commands of Christ by the apostles… Fact is, that the testimonies of God in the things made, are only words of God to us, who believe the Scriptures. And therefore, the Day of the Lord will come upon them as a thief. It will be sudden destruction… When they are saying, Peace and safety, destruction cometh upon them.” Rev. G. Lubbers in the S.B. article: Exposition of II Peter 3

### To take with you today: Luke 21:36

**“Those who, like Noah, are ‘moved with godly fear’ shall not see this day come as a thief,**

**but shall be watchful unto prayer,**

**and lift up their heads in earnest expectation.**

 **It will be the day of their final redemption in Christ.”** Rev. Lubbers

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### \_Day Four\_

**Unavoidable Travail**

Today we see how the wicked will be struck with sudden unavoidable travail.

### I Thessalonians 5:3 - Study Guide page 39

**Read:** I Thess 5: 1-4 Psalm 48:4-8 Jer. 4:27-31 Jer. 13:20-27 Rev. 6:12-17

**Do:**

1. What does the figure of a woman in travail signify in this connection? (Q.2.d. pg. 39)

Psalm 48:4-8

Rev. 6:12-17

2. Does the figure also have a more favorable meaning? (Q. 2.e. pg. 39)

 see John 16:21&22

 Micah 4:10

 Galatians 4:19

 Continued….

**\_\_Day 4 cont.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Food for thought:** “Paul continues: When they are saying ‘Peace and Safety’, then a sudden (thing) comes upon them, namely, destruction, like a birth-pang upon the pregnant woman, and by no means will they escape. Note the combination of suddenness and unpreparedness…The world in general will be eating and drinking, buying and selling, building and planting, marrying and giving in marriage, when Jesus comes again. Of course, in themselves not any of these things is wicked., what could be wrong with receiving physical nourishment, carrying on commerce and industry, being engaged in agriculture, or planning a wedding? By means of these things God can even be glorified. But when the soul becomes entirely wrapped up in them, so that they become ends in themselves, and so that the higher, spiritual needs are neglected, they are a curse and no longer a blessing. ‘All for the body and its enjoyments, nothing for the soul.’ Was the slogan of the wicked contemporaries of Noah and of Lot; and that too will be the outstanding characteristic of the human race in the evil days to come…They will be saying ‘Peace and Safety.’ Some will even ridicule the very idea of Christ’s return. However, they will by no means escape, no more than the pregnant woman who is seized by a very sharp and sudden birth-pang while she is helpless.”

 Wm. Hendrikson

### To take with you today: I Thessalonians 5:3

**The world does not recognize Christ’s Lordship nor does it believe in His return.**

**And what of you?**

**Are you waiting for Him to return in the full consciousness**

**that the day of the Lord will come**

 **and that it is for you the day of redemption and glory?**  Rev. Heys

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**\_\_Day Five\_**

**But Ye, Brethren**

Today we see how God’s children are not in darkness.

### I Thessalonians 5:4 - Study Guide page 39

**Read:** I Thessalonians 5:1-4 Isaiah 60:1-3 John 3:18-21 Col. 1:13

**Do:** 1. What day is verse 4 referring to?

2. Contrast between believer and unbeliever: (#3. Pg.39)

 What contrast does Paul draw between the believer and the unbeliever? (Q.3.a.pg.39)

 verse 4

1. What is the darkness spoken of in verse 4?

 Matthew 4:12-16

 Luke 1:76-79

1. Why will ‘the day’ not overtake us as a thief?

 Matthew 25:13

 Mark 13:35-37

**Food for thought:** “What Paul desires is that the readers, instead of being filled with vain curiosity or getting all excited, shall be *prepared*. He again uses the term of affectionate address, *brothers*. These brothers form a sharp antithesis with the people of the world. The latter are *in darkness,* surrounded by it and embedded in it. The darkness has penetrated their hearts and minds, their whole being. This is the darkness of sin and unbelief. It is on account of this darkness that unbelievers are not sober and watchful (hence, not prepared). Food for thought continued

\_\_Day 5 cont.\_ “It is because of this that they lack faith, love and hope… the meaning of darkness becomes plain by reading verses 5-8. *The day* is, of course, the day of Christ’s return unto judgment… That day, here personified, will *seize* unbelievers, catching them *unprepared*, just as a thief *seizes* the owner of the house. Believers, however, are not in darkness. They are not seized, for they are *prepared*.”

 Wm.Hendrikson

### To take with you today: I Thessalonians 5:4

# Jehovah is my light and my salvation near.

**Who shall my soul affright or cause my heart to fear?**

**While God my life, my strength sustains**

 **Secure from fear my soul remains.** Ps. #71 st. 1

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### \_Day Six\_

**Children of the Day**

Today we look at what it means to be children of the day.

### I Thessalonians 5:4&5 - Study Guide page 39

**Read:** I Thessalonians 5:1-6 John 11:7-10 Romans 13:10-14

**Do:** We have two contrasts in verses 4&5; night and day, and light and darkness. Today we will look at the difference between being children of the night and children of the day.

1. Who is Paul addressing here as children of the day?

2. What is meant by the ‘night’ in contrast to the ‘day’? (Q.3.b.pg.39)

 verses 4&5

3. What will a child of the day not do according to Romans 13:12-14

**Food for thought:** “Let us, who are of the day, be sober….To be of the day means that we originate in the light, are born of the light, are therefore children of light, perfection, of God. You are of the day. You may frequently stumble, but principally you are of the light, and the life of God is in you. As such you must walk. You must not be sober to become children of the day but because you are of the day. This is the language of the Scriptures throughout. We must not love God to become children of God but because we are children of the Lord… Walk then as children of God and of the light. Be sober and conduct yourselves in all your walk of life as expecting the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Rev. H. Veldman in the Reformed Witness Hour sermon: Spiritual Soberness

### To take with you today: I Thessalonians 5:5

**“Thanks be to God, for whereas we were like unto them by nature,**

**we are no longer children of darkness.**

 **But, adopted into God’s family, we are become sons of light.”** Rev. M. Schipper

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### \_\_Day Seven\_

**Children of the Light**

Today we will look at another contrast – light and darkness.

### I Thessalonians 5: 4&5 - Study Guide page 39

**Read:** I Thessalonians 5: 1-6 John 24:34-36 Acts 26:13-18

 I Peter 2: 1-10 I John 1 I John 2: 1-11 Continued….

\_\_\_Day 7 cont.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Do:** Today we will look at the other contrast in verses four and five closely connected to day and night – that of darkness in contrast to light.

1. What light must the believer be in?

 Ephesians 5:8-13

 I Peter 2:9

1. What darkness is the unbeliever always in?

 Matthew 6:19-23

 Romans 1:20&21

 II Corinthians 6:14-15

 I John 2:8-11

3. What is the “darkness” in contrast to the “light”? (Q. 3.c. pg. 39)

 John 11:10

 Ephesians 5:8

 I John 2:11

**Food for thought:** “The church is not in darkness that that day of Christ should overtake her as a thief. She has been thoroughly instructed as to the precursory signs, those harbingers, that forewarn the church that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. The Lord Himself had described in detail what the expectant church must look for before He will make his glorious appearance. He told them to look for signs in creation, such as floods, earthquakes, and pestilences, all signs of the coming judgment. He told them there would be wars and rumors of wars… These and many other warning signals proclaiming loudly the speedy approach of the exalted Lord and Judge are what the expectant church is to anticipate. But of the day and the hour of His actual appearance knoweth no man. And the reason for this omission in the revelation concerning the return of the Lord, is this, that the church may always be vigilant. Spiritual vigilance is the watchword!”

 Rev. M Schipper in the S.B. article: Exhorted to Spiritual Vigilance

### To take with you today: I Peter 2:9

# Lord, my hope is in Thy promise, and I wait for Thee

**More than they that watch for morning light to see.**

**With the Lord is tender mercy, and redeeming love;**

**Israel look for full salvation from above.** Ps. #365 st. 3&4

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**Day Eight**

**Instructions to the Children of the Day**

Today we learn how we are called to live as children of the light.

### I Thessalonians 5:6&7 - Study Guide page 39

**Read:** I Thess 5:1-8 Matthew 25:1-13 Mark 13:32-37 Luke 12:37-40 Hebrews 10:25

**Do:** 1. What sleep is meant here in verses 6&7?

2. What admonition comes to the children of light? (Q. 3. d. pg.39)

 verses 6&7

 Matthew 25:1-13

 I Peter 5:8

 Luke 21:34&36 Continued….

**\_Day 8 cont\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

3. Mention specific ways we can obey those commands in our lives.

**Food for thought:** “Though we have been transformed from children of darkness into sons of light, we possess this grace only in principle. We still dwell in the flesh, in a corrupt nature, which is no different from the flesh of the children of darkness. If we followed the inclinations of that flesh and old nature, then we would also sleep in the night, and become intoxicated in the night. Therefore, we need to be exhorted to vigilance. Were we already in heaven, where there will be no night, we would need no such exhortation. But we dwell in the flesh which never willeth any good thing, which always imitates the world, and seeks the vain things below even to the point that we become intoxicated with them. Why must we be exhorted to spiritual vigilance? Because in the darkness of this present time it is our calling to be sons of the light and of the day. This means, first of all, that we live antithetically. And that means negatively, that we oppose the darkness, not only in the world, but in our sinful flesh, that we mortify the deeds of the flesh and bring it into subjection to the will of Christ. Positively, it means that we live out of the principle of regeneration, with all our spiritual senses tempered by the life of Christ which is within us. So we will reveal, not only to God but also to the world about us, that we indeed are the sons of light and of the day.”

###  Rev. M. Schipper in the Standard Bearer article: Exhorted to Spiritual Vigilance

### To take with you today: I Thessalonians 5:6

**“To be watchful means to live a sanctified life,**

 **in the consciousness of the coming judgment day.**

**The watchful individual has his lamps burning and his loins ‘girded.’**

**And it is in that condition that he looks forward to the return of the Bridegroom.”**

#####  Wm. Hendrikson

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### \_Day Nine\_

**Spiritual Sobriety**

Today we look at the other contrast pictured for us in the text – drunken or sober.

### I Thessalonians 5: 6-8a

**Read:** I Thessalonians 5: 1-8 Romans 13:13&14 Titus 2: 6&12 I Peter 1:1-16 I Peter 5:6-11

**Do:** 1. Since we are of the day, what does verse 8 call us to be?

1. List some differences between a physically drunken man and a physically sober man.
2. What then would be a description of a spiritually sober man?
3. What importance do I place daily on being spiritually sober?

**Food for thought:**  Let us be sober. This means, in the first place, that we have a clear understanding of ourselves. We must awaken to a sound knowledge of ourselves, our utterly and desperately sinful condition, our hopeless condemnation before the living God and Judge of all the earth. Moreover, even as children of God we must thoroughly understand that we are prone by nature to be led astray by the things of this present time. Food for thought continued….

**\_\_\_Day 9 cont\_\_\_** “We must reflect soberly upon the lusts of the eyes and of the flesh and the attractiveness and alluring power of this evil time. Secondly, we must have a clear and thorough understanding of this world. We must realize its fleeting, rapidly passing character. We must see things in their proper perspective, their proper relation to each other and the future. The day of our Lord Jesus Christ of which the context speaks must be constantly before us, knowing that this world is but a pattern of the one to come, and that the coming of the Lord is sure and certain. Thirdly, we must have a correct and sober understanding of our position in the midst of the world. Our opinion of the powers of darkness must be sober and sound. We must not be deceived and led astray by the pernicious doctrine that what appears beautiful and respectable is also acceptable in the sight of the Lord… The Scriptural verdict that whatever is not of faith is sin must be ever before us….Hence, to be sober implies that we conduct ourselves as properly balanced in the midst of the world. Walk with your eye upon the coming of the Lord. Do not be led astray by the powers of darkness. Do not permit the things of this present time to allure you. Do not be tempted to believe that you will find peace and safety here. And expect the coming of the Lord, the personal, physical, actual coming of the Lord upon the clouds of heaven. In Him and from Him alone is peace and safety.”

 Rev. H. Veldman in the Reformed Witness Hour sermon: Spiritual Soberness

### To take with you today: I Thessalonians 5:8

**“Walk then as children of God and of the light.**

 **Be sober and conduct yourselves in all your walk of life**

 **as expecting the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Rev. Veldman

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### \_Day Ten\_\_

### Putting on Spiritual Sobriety

Today we look at how we actively put on spiritual sobriety.

### I Thessalonians 5:8b - Study Guide page 40

**Read:** I Thessalonians 5:1-8 Romans 13:11-14 Eph. 6:10-18 I John 3: 1-3

**Do:**

1. What is included in sobriety? (Q. 4. Pg. 40)

 Verse 8

 I Corinthians 13:13

 Ephesians 6:10-18

1. Explain how we go about actively putting on those things listed above.

##### **Food for thought:** “You recognize this Christian armor, do you not? It is the famous triple alliance so often mentioned in Holy writ; faith, love and hope. Neither is it difficult to understand that love and faith should be called a breastplate and the hope of salvation an helmet. A breastplate is a defense for a very vital part of the human organism, the heart. Faith and love are our breastplate, our sure defense in the midst of the world, by means of which we can consciously keep that which we have and not be drawn away by the enticements and allurements of this present evil time. And that the hope of salvation should be our helmet is understandable – with head uplifted we look for the Savoir; hence, hope is our helmet….Putting on this triple armor the Christian warrior will stand soberly in the midst of this world and keep his eye unwaveringly upon the coming of Jesus Christ, his Lord….Faith in Jesus is the blessed confidence that, although my conscience daily accuses me, I am righteous in Christ before God, and that He Who died for me is even now at the right hand of God and will preserve and save me even unto the uttermost. Put on this breast plate of faith… Love is the bond of perfection. Continued…

\_\_Day 10 cont\_\_ “To put on love means that you love God, love that which is good, hate and eschew evil, seek whatever is of God and His virtues and kingdom. If you put on the breastplate of faith you must put on the breastplate of love. The two are inseparable. To put on love means that you exercise it, stand in that love which the Lord works in His own…Put on the helmet of the hope of salvation. Once cannot dispute the fact that the salvation whereof the apostle speaks in this text is our ultimate salvation in the day of Jesus Christ our Lord. The hope of salvation is that operation of faith and love as it takes hold of, expects and longs for the salvation which God will presently reveal unto us. In the midst of the struggle, surrounded by a world which would lead you into spiritual drunkenness and separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus, put on this helmet, fix your eye upon the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and rejoice in the hope of everlasting life.” Rev. H. Veldman in the Reformed Witness Hour sermon: Spiritual Soberness

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### To take with you today: Titus 2:12&13

**“No man can profess to believe in the Lamb of Calvary**

 **and not walk in the way of holiness and sanctification.**” Rev. H. Veldman

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### \_Day Eleven

**Incentives to Watch**

Today Rev. Hanko has us look at three incentives to walk in spiritual sobriety.

### I Thessalonians 5:9&10 - Study Guide page 40

**Read:** I Thessalonians 5:1-11 John 10:11-18 Romans 9:18-23

**Do:** 1. What three incentives does Paul give for believers to watch in sobriety? (Q. 5. Pg.40)

 Verses 2,9 and 10

2. Verse 9 tells us God has not appointed us to wrath. Show from the following verses that God does

 appoint some to wrath.

Proverbs 16:4

Romans 9:13, 18, & 23

Jude 4

1. According to verses 9&10, what did it take in order for us to be able to live together with Christ?

 See also Romans 14: 8&9

1. Using what we learned about the word sleep in I Thessalonians Chapter 4, what does it mean in verse 10 where we read ‘whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him’?

**Food for thought:** “Our text (verses 9-11) is intended to explain further how God prepares His people for the coming of Christ. We have a date (an appointment) with Christ in Whom is all our salvation. His work of salvation which is already begun in us, reaches unto eternal life; and because this is what we expect from Him in His coming, we comfort and edify one another unto spiritual vigilance. We have been appointed unto the attainment of salvation. Food for thought cont.

\_Day 11 cont\_\_ “That is, we have been set apart with design, foreordained, predestined according to the election of grace to enter into the fullness of salvation… He hath appointed us not to wrath. This He has done unto all the ungodly, the children of darkness. Awful truth! Through the way of their sin and willful disobedience, He has appointed them to be the objects of His holy wrath… The perfection of our salvation, that is, the bringing of our salvation to its eternal completion, awaits the coming of the Lord. For that completed salvation we are now being prepared. That is the significance of the operation of the Spirit of Christ in our hearts. That is the significance of the preaching of the gospel… that we may be prepared for the coming of the Lord. So that when He shall appear we may be like Him, and appear with Him in the assembly of the elect, and enter with Him into the glory of our everlasting salvation”

 Rev. M. Schipper in the Standard Bearer article; Our Appointment to Salvation

### To take with you today: I Thessalonians 5: 9&10

**“We must not forget that we of ourselves have no right to that salvation to which we are appointed.**

**All the vials of God’s holy wrath must be poured out also over our sin.**

**All our sins are paid for in Christ**

**While we escape, God’s holy justice is satisfied!”** Rev. Schipper

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### Day Twelve

**Wherefore Comfort One Another**

Today we examine how these truths affect our lives.

### I Thessalonians 5:11 - Study Guide page 40

**Read:** I Thess. 5:1-11 Malachi 3:16-18 Ephesians 4:14-16 I Thessalonians 4:17&18

**Do:**

1. Take the three incentives to watch for our Lord, which we looked at yesterday:

 --The Lord is coming

 --We are appointed to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ

 --We will live together with him

 And examine how much they mean in our lives.

 What value do we place on them?

 How active are we in striving after them?

 What place do they hold in our prayers?

2. What double admonition follows in verse 11? (Q. 6. pg. 40)

1. What does it mean – to edify one another?
2. Give specific ways in which we can comfort and edify one another.

 How can we make comforting and edifying one another a living part of our lives?

**Food for thought:** “There is absolutely no comfort for the ungodly. O, indeed, they also are appointed, but they are appointed unto wrath. And that means they have no hope, but only despair…in this life there is no working of salvation in them; only the wrath of God abides on them. Food for thought cont.

\_\_Day 12 cont\_\_ “And this explains also how in this present world they are not looking for the coming of Christ, how they are spiritually asleep in the night…Comfort is only for the people of God! And comfort, according to the Scriptures, is always that consideration of the sanctified mind and heart that contemplates a great good over against the present experience of evil, while it also understands how that present evil we experience must be subservient, must lead us to the attainment of that great good. Comforted they are with knowledge of God’s truth and promise that the good work He has begun in them He will also finish unto the day of Christ. Comforted they are with the assurance that the present evils they suffer in this night of sin and death are not really evils working against them at all, but really servants of God molding and fashioning them after His will and getting them ready for glory. And this comfort is not something which they keep to themselves, but of which they speak to others, especially to the household of faith. They call the attention of the saints to it, and as they speak of this comfort to others, it is with the intention to build them up, to encourage them to stand together and to watch in spiritual soberness for the coming of the Lord.”

 Rev. M. Schipper in the Standard Bearer article: Our Appointment to Salvation

# To take with you today: I Thessalonians 5:11

**Urgent the exhortation is to comfort one another,**

 **because the longer the Lord tarries,**

**the more susceptible we are to become spiritually lethargic.**

 **We build one another up when we remind one another constantly**

**to look for the signs of Christ’s coming.**

 **For the coming of the Lord draweth nigh!** Rev. M. Schipper

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### Day Thirteen

**Review of I Thessalonians 5: 1-11**

5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

**5:1 But of the times** (concerning the duration periods – when) **and the seasons,** (and the appropriate seasons – what kind – how long) **brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.** (Those who watch do not need to be told when the hour will come, for they are always ready.)

**5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.**

**5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh** (is presently coming with speed and certainty) as **a thief in the night.** (to take the unaware and unprepared by surprise with no notice.)

5:3 For when they (the ungodly) shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

**5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety;** (when the go about their daily life, fascinated with earthly charms) **then sudden destruction cometh upon them,** (destruction will come upon them at the moment they least expect it) as **travail upon a woman with child;** (like birth-pangs, trouble comes with no notice, sudden and unannounced with no relief) **and they shall not escape.** (escape is impossible. No one escapes.)

5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

 Verses 5:4 cont

\_\_Day 13 cont\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**5:4 But ye, brethren,** (In contrast, the believers) **are not in darkness,** (are not in the darkness of understanding – in the state of sin) **that** (so that – in order that – purposed by God) **that day** (the day of Christ’s return) **should overtake you as a thief.** (that day will not seize the believer unexpectedly because they are prepared)

5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

**5:5 Ye are all the children of light,** (as sons resemble their fathers, so you are in character – light. Intellectually and morally illuminated in a spiritual point of view) **and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.** (sin no longer has dominion over us)

**5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.**

5:6 Therefore (for that reason – because we are sons of light – redeemed) let us not sleep, as do others; (let us not have an apathy to spiritual things, to live as if there will never be a judgment day as the unbelievers do) but let us watch and be sober. (but be watchful for Christ’s coming, refraining from carnal indulgence – mental or sensual and live a sanctified life in the consciousness of the coming judgment day.)

5:7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

**5:7 For they that sleep sleep in the night;** (It is at night that sleepers sleep) **and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.** (and it is at night that drunkards are drunk – a literal picture.)

5:8 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.

5:8 But let us, who are of the day, (But since we are of the day, since we belong to the day) be sober, (let us be aware and armed and guarded against being surprised) putting on the breastplate (covering the heart) of faith and love; (put on the blessed confidence that all your sins are forgiven - exercising the bond of faith with which God unites us to Christ, and exercise love – stand in the love which God works in you.) and for an helmet, (covering the head) the hope of salvation. (take hold of and expect and long for salvation – not as our present possession, but the future fulfillment – the full inheritance of our full salvation)

**5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**5:9 For** (because) **God hath not appointed** (set us apart) **us to wrath,** (to condemnation) **but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,** (but rather he has appointed us to the acquiring of salvation through our Savior)

**5:10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.**

5:10 Who died for us, (Christ died for His chosen –on our behalf) that, (in order that – the purpose of His death) whether we wake or sleep, whether we be alive at His coming or whether we have died believing in Him as our Savior) we should live together with him. (all of us together will live in fellowship with Christ)

Continued…

\_\_Day 13 cont\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

**5:11 Wherefore** (For that blessed reason) **comfort yourselves together,** (comfort one another) **and edify one another,** and build up one another in faith and hope and love by discoursing together on such edifying topics as the Lord’s coming and the glory of the saints) **even as also ye do.** (continue on even as you already do)

**Food for thought:** “Whether we die or remain alive unto Christ’s coming, we are united unto a living Mediator, and with Him we are forever to live…He is the Mediator Who is coming again! He is coming again to realize in its finality our appointment. And that means we have a date with Him. And it means too, that He keeps that appointment. But it also means that until that date is kept He works salvation in us, and by His Spirit sanctifies us and applies His saving grace to us. In the completed work of our Lord Jesus Christ is the absolute ground and therefore the assurance of our appointment unto salvation.”

 Rev. M. Schipper in the Standard Bearer article: Our Appointment to Salvation

### To take with you today: Matthew 25:13

# “Spiritual vigilance!

**If we are constantly and conscientiously putting on faith hope and love,**

**this spiritual activity will never allow us to fall asleep or be drunken**

**So shall we be spiritually vigilant!**

 **So shall we be watching and sober!**

**So shall we be waiting and ready for His appearance!**

 **And praying the prayer the exalted Lord Himself taught us in the Revelation:**

# ‘Come Lord Jesus, yea, come quickly!”

 Rev. M. Schipper