



## *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

### Lesson 8

The last verses of 1 Thessalonians 4 assure us that the saints who have died will not *escape* the full salvation of the Lord. The first verses of 1 Thessalonians 5 give us two additional assurances. Unbelievers will not *escape* God's wrath and believers will not only *escape* His wrath, but are appointed to live with Jesus, together with all the saints who have died before His coming. These awesome assurances should provoke us both to be praisers for what is waiting for us and warners to those who reject God's Son. For just as sure as His promise of life with Jesus is for us, is His promise of wrath for them.

#### **OBSERVATION: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God/Father* and *Jesus*.  
Key Words: *God, Jesus, peace, faith, love, hope, and the phrase the day of the Lord*
3. The use of the contrasting word *but* was used five times in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* was used twice in these verses. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of them. Record the conclusion and what it was based upon.
5. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 reveal about *the day of the Lord*?

## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-3 The Day of the Lord

1. Paul stated in verse 1 that they already had a basic understanding of end time events. Why do you think it's important for a new believer to have a basic knowledge of these things?
  - a. Although we have an understanding of many truths about the end times, according to Acts 1:7, what did Jesus say is not for us to *know*?
  - b. Why do you think the date and time of Christ's coming is of such interest to some people?
2. Just as there are different beliefs of the timing of the rapture of the church, there are different interpretations of what/when *the day of the Lord* is. For the purposes of this study, *the day of the Lord* is the time period immediately following the rapture until the end of the seven year Tribulation period. Using 1 Thessalonians 5:2,3 describe what the beginning of that *day* will be like.
3. These verses in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 teach us the difference between the believer and the unbeliever as far as our readiness and viewpoint of *the day of the Lord*. How does a person who believes a thief will come prepare?
  - a. Describe the preparation or lack of preparation of someone who does not believe a thief will come.
  - b. What does Matthew 24:42-44 say about the *hour of the Lord's coming*?
  - c. Why do you think Jesus used the analogy of a *thief in the night* to describe His coming?
  - d. When you consider Christ's coming as being unexpected, in what ways do you personally want to be prepared?

4. Many will be saying *peace and safety, yet sudden destruction will come*. Record the words of God's retribution toward those who told the people that God's judgment was not coming to Israel in Jeremiah 8:11. (note: the word *slightly* means superficially or the easing of a burden.)
  
5. Why is the example of *labor pains* a good way to describe the sureness of *the day of the Lord*?
  
6. As sure as the delivery process includes *labor pains*, what does the end of verse 3 promise?

### **1 THESSALONIANS 5:4-7 Those of the Night**

1. The next five verses of 1 Thessalonians contrast the believers' experience and the unbelievers' experience of *the day of the Lord*. Make a list of what is revealed about the unbelievers' experience.
  
  
  
  
  
2. In what ways is an unbeliever:  
  
*in darkness*  
  
  
*asleep*
  
  
3. Record the words of:  
  
Romans 13:11,12  
  
  
  
Colossians 1:13
  
  
4. Define the word *overtake* as it is used in 1 Thessalonians 5:4.

### **1 THESSALONIANS 5:4-8 Those of the Day**

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:4 begins with an awesome word of contrast. What is it?
  - a. What reassurance does this word give you?

2. How is the believer described in verse 5?
3. According to Acts 26:18, what happened when God turned you from *darkness to light*?
  - a. This glorious transaction comes with an expectation of a response. What instruction is given in Ephesians 5:8?
    - 1.) What do you believe are characteristics of this *walk*?
4. What two instructions are given to the believer in 1 Thessalonians 5:6?
  - a. The words *watch* and *sober* are meant to contrast the behavior of the unbeliever. To be *sober* means to act soberly, to think and act sensibly, to refrain from carnal indulgences. In light of *the day of the Lord*, what is Paul exhorting Christians to do?
5. Why do you think there are no instructions given to the unbelievers in this section?

### **1 THESSALONIANS 5:8 Putting on Faith, Love, and Hope**

1. Again we see Paul mentioning these three characteristics possible only for the believer. Using 1 Thessalonians 1:3, what did Paul *remember* about the believers in Thessalonica?
2. We must not only be watchful, but guarded; we must not only be sober, but armed. What does he tell the believer to *put on*?
3. The *breastplate* protects the heart, while the *helmet* protects the head. In what ways have you personally discovered that these two areas need to be protected spiritually?
4. In what ways does the application of *faith*, *love*, and *hope* protect you against weapons designed to defeat you spiritually?

- a. How are *faith, love, and hope* an impetus to eagerly awaiting *the day of the Lord*?
- b. We are to put on the *breastplate of faith and love*. Record the link between *faith and love* according to Galatians 5:6.
  - 1.) How does *faith work through love*?
- c. In one aspect, *salvation* is a present experience. Yet, we will not fully experience our *salvation* until we are in heaven. How practically does a believer *put on the helmet of the hope of salvation*?

### 1 THESSALONIANS 5:9-11 God's Appointments for Believers

1. According to verse 9, what are we (as believers) **not appointed to**?
  - a. Those who believe in a pre-tribulation rapture, believe that Christians will experience very little of *the day of the Lord* – only as long as the *twinkling of an eye* (1 Corinthians 15:52). Explain this statement as you would to a new believer.
2. Rather than *wrath*, what are we (as believers) *appointed to*?
  - a. Define the word *appoint*.
    - 1.) List some antonyms for the word *appoint*.
3. Contrast the words *wrath* and *salvation*.
4. The phrase *wake or sleep* in verse 10 connects these first verses of 1 Thessalonians 5 with the concern of the last verses of chapter 4, explaining whether our bodies are still in the grave or we have remained on the earth when Jesus comes again, we can count on the same truth. What is it?

5. Scan the first ten verses of 1 Thessalonians 5 and summarize the comfort they promise the believer.

**REVIEW:**

1. How can talking about God's promises for the future *edify* believers?
2. Share one *comfort* you received as you studied these verses.
3. What characteristics of God are revealed in these verses?
4. In what ways were you challenged as you studied these verses?

*And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world,  
and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*  
– John 3:19

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*  
– John 3:16

## Observation Worksheet

### 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

**1** But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. **2** For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. **3** For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. **5** You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. **6** Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. **8** But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. **11** Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.