

## **1Thessalonians 5**

*1 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.* The Day of the Lord is the day of Christ's return. Paul can't write about the time and date because it will be unannounced. Matthew 24:36,42-44; 25:13; 2 Peter 3:10

*3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.* The world will be completely taken by surprise. Jesus warned us in Luke 21:34-35 not to get so overwhelmed by the world that we will be surprised. Matthew 24:37-39 Jesus said it would be like in the days of Noah. People will be going about their ordinary activities. Some believe that this will be because the Anti-christ has ushered in a peace plan settling the problem between the Jews and Arabs. Daniel 9:27

*4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.*

Darkness and sleep are metaphors for being out of the will of God, indulging in selfish pursuits. People who are focused on those things will be shocked. We have been delivered from that kingdom. Colossians 1:13; 1Peter 2:9; Acts 26:18 We are to be alert and self-controlled. I don't see this as believers knowing Jesus is about to appear because of the signs, but as believers always being ready to meet their Lord because they walk with Him daily. Are you living like someone who is awake to the Spirit and life? Would you describe yourself as being alert to the Spirit and self-controlled?

*7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.*

Again, sleep, night, and drunkenness are all pictures of the indulgent self-seeking godless life. In Genesis 1:4 God separated the light from the darkness. God makes a distinction between light and dark and night and day in the very first acts of creation. Consider 1John 1:5 and Ephesians 5:8-14 Since God is light and we are children of the Light, belonging to the day, we should be representative of the Light – goodness, righteousness and truth. Let us be... Allow the Spirit of Christ to cause you to be self-controlled. This is a product of His life in you. Galatians 5:22-23 Faith and love should be out front in your contact with others, over your heart and emotions. (Greeks thought the seat of

emotions was in the torso.) The hope of salvation should cover your thought life. Ephesians 6:13-17

*9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The life of darkness is destined for the wrath of God. Rebellion against God and His goodness will be dealt with. If you are a child of the day, a child of light, you have been appointed to receive salvation. God's grace drew you to Himself and helped you yield to His conviction, which brought you to repentance and then to salvation through Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:19

*10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.*

Paul is referring back to the concern in chapter 4, whether we are alive or dead when Jesus comes... We will live together with Him. You don't need to worry about it those who have died. They are with Him already in spirit. But we don't have to die to live together with Him. We should be living with Him now! Romans 8:11; 14:8-9; Titus 2:14 (eager to do good)

*11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

We are told to encourage each other throughout Scripture. Hebrews 3:13 One of the reasons we meet is to encourage each other. Hebrews 10:25 And to build each other up. Romans 14:19; 15:2; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:16,29 Sometimes we need to be reminded to continue and increase in what we are already doing. Christians either build up others or tear them down. The church will be stronger and more effective when we let the Spirit help us consistently build one another up.