1 Thessalonians

LESSON # 12

5:1-11

Memory verses for this week are 5:9-10

Read through chapter 5 **three** times, (choosing different translations) and ask God to help you understand His word so you will be able to encourage and build up one another!

1. **Verse 1 begins with the little connecting phrase “now as to,” which in Greek indicates a change in topic within the same general theme. What was Paul talking about in 4:13-18, what is his new topic in 5:1-11, and how are the two related?**
2. **“Times and epochs” is a phrase used to describe both the *measurement* of time and *quality* of those times. According to verses 1-2, Paul stated they already knew all they needed about the coming day of the Lord, but he once again shares some truths. What was it they knew about this event (v. 2)?**
3. **The day of the Lord in Scripture is not a literal day, but rather a period of time which is characterized in certain ways. What do we learn about the nature of the day of the Lord from 5:2-3?**
4. How is the “day” described from the following verses?

Isaiah 13:9-11

Joel 2:28-32

Zephaniah 1:14-18

Zephaniah 3:14-15

1. **What further insight do we gain on this Day from 2 Peter 3:10-13 and Rev.20:7-15?**

“The Day of the Lord was presented by the prophets as a day of undetermined length which uniquely belongs to the Lord for judgement. The OT uses of the Day of the Lord involved near prophetic and far eschatological perspectives. At times they were compressed together into one text. Two times of divine judgement, called the Day of the Lord by scripture, yet remain for planet earth. The crescendo judgement which climaxes the tribulation period, i.e. Daniel’s 70th week (1 Thess. 5:2) and the consummation judgement which closes the annals of earth’s fallen history (2 Peter 3:10-13). The Day of the Lord will occur at the end of the tribulation period, not throughout its duration, and the Day of the Lord will occur only at the end of the millennium, not throughout its one thousand years”.”(Richard Mayhue)

1. **Verse 2 compares the day of the Lord to a thief who comes at night. (This phrase is never used of the rapture of the Church but only in Christ’s coming in judgement on the Day of the Lord).**

**What sort of imagery and emotional response does this comparison evoke? Why is this so appropriate in light of what we’ve learned about the day of the Lord?**

1. **To whom does the “they” of verse 3 refer? (Hint: look at the contrast in verse 4)**
2. **What is the day of the Lord like for “them”? See verse 3 and explain.**
3. **In verse 4, Paul explicitly excludes himself and the Thessalonian church from this description of the coming Day of the Lord. Where are these believers when this Day comes? (Hint: remember the near context in 4:13-18.)**
4. **Verses 2-11 contain a rich set of contrasts between believers and unbelievers. List everything said about “you/us” and “them” in two columns below.**

**You/Us (Believers) Them (Unbelievers)**

1. Turn again to 2 Peter 3:8-13. Why is God waiting to bring about this judgment? Knowing this, what should be our response toward unbelievers?
2. What metaphor does Paul uses in vv. 4-8?

13. **What is the main command of verses 4-8? What is it Paul wants the Church to do?**

**Note: Though in English the word “sleep” in verse 7 is the same as “sleep” in 4:13-15, in Greek it is an entirely different word. Rather than referring to death, “sleep” in verse 7 indicates spiritual deadness, lethargy, insensitivity, and characterizes unbelievers.**

1. What does Paul want believers to understand and apply to their lives from those verses?
2. **This command is presented as the logical conclusion of the prior discussion of light and darkness. Why is this behavior both logical and necessary for the believer?**
3. **Define *alert* and *sober*.**
4. How do the following verses enhance your understanding of the meaning of *alert*?

Mark 13:35-37

1 Corinthians 16:13

Colossians 4:2

Revelation 3:2-3 (translated *wake up*)

1. Summarize what you learn about being *sober* from the following: 1 Thess. 5:8;

2 Timothy 4:5; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8.

1. How does being alert and sober stand in stark contrast with those who sleep and are of the dark? As a believer, how should we respond to the truth of v. 8?
2. Here again we encounter this golden triad of faith, hope, and love (see also 1:3). How are they pictured here and how exactly does one “put them on”?
3. What does this imagery indicate about how Paul viewed the Christian life?

(Put yourself in the place of a suffering persecuted Christian)

1. **What do verses 9-10 tell us about how we are saved?**
2. **How does Christ’s death and our salvation exempt us from the wrath to come?**
3. What or whom do you trust in for your salvation? Do you have full assurance that you are not one that is destined for wrath? If you have questions or are unsure, please talk to someone.
4. **How were the Thessalonians to respond to this teaching about things to come?**

**(v. 11)**

1. Throughout the New Testament, relationships between believers have a definite purpose. What do you learn about this purpose from the following Scriptures?

Romans 14:19-20

Ephesians 4:11-13; 20

Hebrews 10:23-25

**“It is clear that in the primitive churches the care of the souls was not delegated to an individual officer, or even the most gifted brethren among them; it was a work in which each believer might have a share. Wherever believers encourage and strengthen each other in private conversation as well as in their assemblies by considering the eschatological truths that have been presented here, there will be a healthy and flourishing church.” D. Edmond Hiebert**

1. **How can you be more effective at building up fellow believers in ways you have discovered in this lesson?**
2. Can you think of someone who may be experiencing similar persecution, fear, or doubt, with whom you could share these passages, promises, and truths? Who, when and how or stated another way what is your POA to this question?
3. **Paul exhorts believers to sobriety and vigilance, which results from putting on the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet of the hope of salvation. What are the specific truths about God OR promises of scripture that you recall and can practice in times of persecution, fear, or doubt?**

**In times of persecution, fear, or doubt, I must believe/trust…**

**In times of persecution, fear, or doubt, I must express love by…**

**In times of persecution, fear, or doubt, I hope specifically for…**