

1 Thessalonians 5 1-11

Last week, Paul talked about those who are sleeping (dead) in the Lord and how at Christ's return they will be resurrected. In these verses he warns about sleeping and not being ready for Jesus' return. This word "sleep" is a different word in the Greek than the one in the previous section. Here it refers to spiritual laxity or laziness.

Verses 1-5 – Some Facts

The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. Note that one thing we clearly know about Judgment Day is that we won't be able to predict when it is coming! One commentator called this "gentle irony". You know exactly that you can't know exactly when the Lord is coming.

It will come on people suddenly – they will not be able to escape. In the Greek, Paul says this very emphatically. "There is no way whatsoever they will escape." See Rev. 6: 15-17.

According to verse 3, what might the situation in the world be right before Jesus comes? Is this how you have pictured it?

Paul says the Lord's coming should not surprise us like a thief. If it will be like a thief in the night, how can we not be surprised? What factor does being children of the light play in this?

Note this "children of the light" stronger than saying we live in the light. This means we are characterized by light. We are the light of the world.

Verses 6-8 – Some Commands

Are the "sleeping" and the "drunk" describing the same people or different people? Are these to be taken literally or figuratively or both?

Putting on armor. What does armor do?

What does this remind us we are in?

From the context, what especially do we have to fight off?

How do we put on this armor?

Also see Ephesians 6: 13-17

Verses 9-10 – Some Facts

He died so we could live with him, whether awake or asleep. These are the same two words he used in v. 6. This makes this an exceedingly difficult verse to interpret.

Verse 11 – Final Commands

This is the same thing he said after the last section (4:18).

After we finish 1 Thessalonians, we will have a “potluck” class where we will discuss any of your questions on the Bible. It will be first come, first served. So start submitting your questions. It would be helpful for you to do that in writing. Either jot it down or email me at mark@tilm.org.