



Study of: 1 Thessalonians

THEME: PREPARED FOR THE RETURN OF CHRIST

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Chapter 5 Overview:

Paul affirms to believers the absolute certainty of Christ's return. He cautions that being absorbed in "matters of darkness" reveals itself through spiritual complacency, attachment to worldly pursuits, moral compromise, and a lack of devotion to Christ. Yet the promise of His return brings deep comfort, assuring us of the resurrection, everlasting fellowship with Him, and an imperishable inheritance securely preserved by God.

Chapter 5 Objectives:

1. Why should believers avoid becoming overly focused on predicting dates or signs?
2. What principle does this passage teach about who will experience Christ's return?
3. What does being consumed with "matters of darkness" look like in practical terms?

The Certainty of the Return of Christ

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 *"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."*

- **"The day of the Lord"** - points to the reality of the return of Christ [John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11]
 - i. The misunderstanding in ch 4 was that those who died physically would miss "the Day of the Lord"
 - ii. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14** *"13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen [b]asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who [c]sleep in Jesus."*
- **"Know perfectly"** - adequate details - "you know all that you need to know."
 - i. **Acts 1:8-9** *"6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' 7 And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.'"*
 - ii. Don't get caught up in the signs and seasons, times, God did not reveal this!!
- **"A thief in the night"** - unexpected and without warning

Q. Why should believers avoid becoming overly focused on predicting dates or signs?

The Experience of the Return of Christ

1 Thessalonians 5:3-4 “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. “

- Principle: Everyone on Earth will experience Jesus’ return - NO ONE WILL MISS IT
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** “16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”
- **“Sudden destruction”** - People of the darkness will be living in “peace and safety”
 - **Matthew 24:36-37** - “37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,”
 - **John 3:18-19** “18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 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.”
- **“But you brethren,”**- You are not in darkness (not the absence of light but the absence of Christ)
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:5** - “5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”

Q. What principle does this passage teach about who will experience Christ’s return?

The Preparation for the Return of Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:6 “6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be [a]sober. ”

- **“Let us not sleep”** - These are those who should be watchful, but instead are sleeping
 - **sleep/drunkenness** - unprepared and consumed by matters of darkness
- Be sober, putting on [breastplate of faith and love - helmet of hope] - sanctification process
- **1 Thessalonians 5:9** “. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,”
- **1 Peter 1:3-5** - “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance [b]incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Q. What does being consumed with “matters of darkness” look like in practical terms?

Bonus Question:

Q. How does the promise of Christ’s return provide comfort for the believer?