

Like A Thief In the Night

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Zephaniah 1:14-18
Luke 12:35-40



Are We Living As Christians? (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)

- ★ Are we **ABOUNDING** Christians or those who call themselves Christians?

There Is A Difference

- Unbeliever and believer.
- Worldly and non-worldly.
- Those in darkness and those in the light.
- Sleeping or awake.
- Drunk or sober.
- Those who are ignorant and those who know.
- Those who are watching and those who will be surprised.
- Those who are not ready and those who are **PREPARED**.
- ★ Christ came to make a division. (John 7:43; 9:16; 10:19; Matthew 10:34-39; Luke 12:51; Acts 14:4; 17:32-34)
- **WHAT SIDE OF THE LINE ARE YOU?**

Are WE Ready? (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

- Christ is **NOT** coming for everyone!
- He is only coming for those who are **eagerly waiting** (Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 9:28), **seriously watching** (Titus 2:13; Luke 12:37), and **groaning** (Romans 8:23; 2 Corinthians 5:2-4) for His return.
- Are we purifying ourselves as we eagerly wait and watch? (1 John 3:2-3; 2 Corinthians 7:1)
- He is coming for those whose name are written in the Lamb Book of Life since the beginning of time. (Revelation 13:8; 17:8; Luke 10:20; Daniel 12:1; Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 20:12,15; 21:27)

Christians Watch (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6)

- (vv. 1-2) Times and Season (See 1 Chronicles 12:32)
 - God has a **PLAN**. And He works **ALL THINGS** according to His plan (will, counsel). (Ephesians 1:11; Acts 2:23; 4:28; Proverbs 19:21; 20:31; 21:30; Isaiah 46:9-11; 14:24-27; Lamentations 3:37-38; Genesis 50:20; Luke 22:22; Job 23:13; Psalm 33:10;)
 - Read Daniel 2:20-22!
 - History is **HIS STORY!** (GOD, not man, moves history.)
 - God's plan includes **ALL nations**. (Acts 17:26; Job 12:23; Isaiah 5:26; 7:18; Zechariah 10:8; Isaiah 40:15, 17)
 - These "times and seasons" are planned down to the hour! (Acts 1:7; Mark 13:30-32; John 4:21, 23; 5:25, 28; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 16:32; 17:1; **Revelation 9:14-15**)
 - These "times and seasons" are planned down to the smallest detail. (Matthew 10:29-30; Psalm 147:4; Isaiah 40:26)
 - His plan ends with the "**Day of the LORD.**"
 - See a description of this day: Amos 5:18ff; Joel 2:1ff; Zephaniah 1:12, 14-18; Isaiah 2:12-21
 - John describes this "season" in Revelation 6-19. (See 6:16-17)
 - "**a thief in the night**" – abruptness and surprise of the LORD's coming.
 - See Matthew 24:42-43; Luke 12:35-40.
 - Christ warned the Church in Sardis to be watchful. (Rev 3:2-3)
 - Those who are *watching* are blessed! (Revelation 16:15) A thief comes . . .
- ① He comes in the darkest part of the night – when he is least expect. (Luke 12:40; Matthew 24:42, 44; 25:13; Mark 13:33-36)
- ② He comes quietly and unobserved by sleepers. (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; Isaiah 56:10)
- ③ He comes to snatch something.
- ④ He is after jewels – things of value. The pearl of GREAT PRICE – the Church – Matthew 13:46; jewels for "his" crown – Malachi 3:17; his "peculiar possession or treasure" (1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:14)
- ⑤ He is not interested in things of no value – Romans 3:12; Matthew 25:30; Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3.



- ⑥ He comes and goes before others are aware.
- ⑦ He leaves the house greatly impoverished but Himself greatly enriched.

- **WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU KNEW A THIEF WAS COMING?**

- Peace or Destruction (1 Thessalonians 5:3-5)
 - “they” – unbelievers; “you” or “us” – believers
 - When the WORLD is saying, “Peace and Safety,” believers need to be saying, “LOOKOUT!!!!”
 - The same thing happened during Noah’s time. (1 Peter 3:20)
 - Lot tried to warn people of the coming destruction of Sodom, but the people laughed! (Genesis 19:12-14)
 - Jesus said that the end times would be like Noah’s (Matthew 24:37-39) and Lot’s (Luke 17:28-32) times – people eating, drinking and partying!
 - The Holy Spirit teaches that there will scoffers in the end times. (2 Peter 3:3-8)
 - GOD is faithful to ALL His Word.
 - 4000 years passed before He sent His Son the first time.
 - It has been 2000 years since — and it could happen at any moment!!
 - Christians, by studying and believing God’s Word, ought to be in the LIGHT not in the DARK – as the world is!!

- **ARE YOU LAUGHING OR LOOKING?**

- **THEREFORE: BE ALERT** (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8)
 - We are commanded to **WATCH** and be **SOBER** (alert)!
 - See Jesus’ teaching in Mark 13:32-37.
 - ★ **BEWARE – WATCH (BE ON GUARD) – PRAY!**
 - “Sleep” here does not mean “death” as in chapter 4 or even physical sleep.
 - Here it means “moral indifference.” (See Zephaniah 1:12)
 - It means being careless about spiritual things.
 - We need to UP, ALERT, and DRESSED!
 - PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR of GOD! It is something we either **willfully do** OR **willfully not do**. Either we obey God or we disobey God. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
 - Breastplate of FAITH - living what we believe.
 - + and LOVE (by this the world will know we are disciples.)
 - Helmets - hope of salvation. (See Hebrews 9:28)

→ **ARE YOU SLEEPING OR WATCHING?**

- **We, Not All, Are Not Appointed to Wrath** (1 Thess 5:9-10)

- It is appointed for men to die, and then judgment. (Heb 9:27)
- “US” – Paul, Silias, Timothy and the saints at Thessalonika.

★ **MEDITATE: GOD APPOINT CHRIST TO SUFFER HIS WRATH FOR US!**

★ **Are YOU a “THEY” or an “US”?**

Comfort and Edify Each Other (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

- Both verbs are ACTIVE, PRESENT, and IMPERATIVE.
 - ★ What will you do with these commands?
- “just as you are doing” - in the midst of persecution and tribulation they were building each other up. They were genuinely concerned with each others spiritual and physical growth.
- **ARE YOU EDIFYING or INDIFFERENT?**

What MUST We Do

- ① **BE PREPARED!** (Matt 24:44; Luke 12:40; 21:34)
- ② SERIOUSLY WATCH!
- ③ BE DRESSED!
- ④ BE SOBER - NOT INDIFFERENT! (Remember Zephaniah 1:12)
- ⑤ COMFORT ONE ANOTHER!
- ⑥ EDIFY ONE ANOTHER!
- ⑦ **PRAY - PRAY - PRAY!**

ALL ARE IMPERATIVES!