

CALVARY CHAPEL SOUTH BAY
MEN ^{OF} THE WORD
MEN'S MINISTRY
2021-2022

1 Thessalonians - "The Coming of the Lord"

Session 14

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11 (NKJV)

"A wake up call to the church"

Paul continues his exhortation on "the day of the Lord" and the believer. Those that are "in darkness" will be caught unaware and unprepared when the Lord returns for His church. But we who are "sons of light and sons of the day" should not. In verses 1-3 Paul told us that we "know perfectly" that the Lords return will be "as a thief in the night" to those who don't know Him. But now, in this week's passage he warns us to act like we know perfectly, and not fall asleep as we wait for His return. "Sleep" in this case does not refer to death, but to spiritual indifference. We must never fall into thinking of Christ's return as irrelevant to our life in the here and now. We must be on the alert and serious about this life, for until the Lord returns, we are in an intense battle for the souls of the lost. That is why Paul tells us to be clothed in those things that make us who we are and point others to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (v.8). Are you wide awake to the spiritual realities of this life; or have you drifted off to sleep? Allow this passage to be a wake up call to not be indifferent to all we are and all we have in Christ, and to get back in the battle for the lost souls of this world!

Personal Study Time Questions:

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5

Why should the day of the Lord not "overtake" us as believers; as if caught unaware and unprepared for the thief in the night?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:6-7

Since we know that Christ could return anytime at this point, what should be a part of our character and conduct? What should not, according to verse 7 and Luke 21:34?

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

Read this parable. We know Jesus is returning someday for sure, and that it could happen at anytime. What does verse 13 tell us about why it is “wise” to be filled with the Holy Spirit (“oil”) in order to live in readiness for the return of our Lord?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:8

In light of all this, what should a “sober” believer put on each and every day as an act of readiness for the return of our Lord, and in the face of the battle we face until He does?

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

What comfort is ours as sons of the Light as we actively live in the faith, love, and hope that is ours in Christ, and in the reality of His return?

Group Discussion:

We indeed want to warn the lost of these truths through the gospel, so that they aren't caught unaware when Christ returns. But what does Paul call us to also do as a community of believers to help each one of us to not fall asleep, but to wake up, watch and be sober? How can doing the last help us do the former? What must you change in the way you are going about your life right now in order to wake up and be ready for the Lord's return; and to be fruitful while you wait?

Hiding God's Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11):

“You are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.”

1 Thessalonians 5:5-6