

“People Get Ready...”

1 Thessalonians Chapter 5

1 Thessalonians Outlined

Chapters 1-3 Reflections on the Thessalonians (Looking Back)

Ch.1 – A young Church, in a short time, becomes an “Example to All Believers”

Ch.2 – The Church and the apostle Paul share the same “Boldness Amid Opposition”

Ch. 3– Five admonitions for “Strengthening and Encouraging Believers”

Chapters 4-5 Instructions to the Thessalonians (Looking Forward)

Ch.4 – Encouraging the Church to “Stand Out, Until Taken Out”

Ch.5 – Paul Gives Final Instructions “People Get Ready...”

1Th 5:1

1) Contrast Children of Day to Children of Night vs 1-11

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

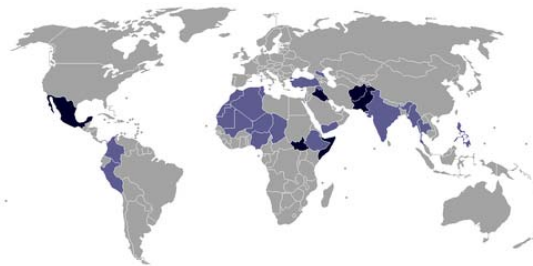
- Times and Seasons (epochs)

- Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV “*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven*”
- Matthew 16:1-3 Jesus scolds the religious leaders for not knowing the times and the seasons. “*The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. But He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ ‘And in the morning, ‘There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?’*”
- Matthew 24:3-24 “*And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, **when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?** And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For **many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;** and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of **wars and rumours of wars**: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be **famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.** All these [are] the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many **false prophets shall rise,** and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this **gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”*

1. False Christs and False Prophets

Sun Wyung Moon -Unification Church,
Jim Jones -Peoples Temple Guyana,
Michael Travesser -Strong City, New Mexico
Mitsuo Matayoshi -Politician Japan

2. Wars



Naxalite-Maoist Insurgency - India
Afghanistan Civil War
Somali Civil War
Iraq War
North West Pakistan
Mexican Drug War
Sudanese Nomadic Conflicts

3. Famines

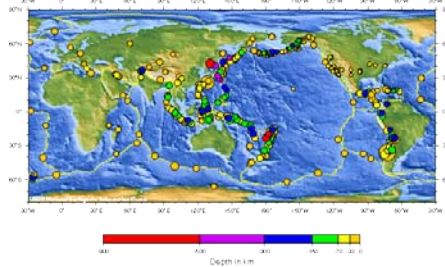
1998-2004 2nd Congo War 3.8 million died, mostly starvation/disease
2000-2007 Zimbabwe's caused by Mugabe's land reform policies
2003- famine in Sudan/Darfur (Darfur conflict)
2005 Malawi food crisis
2005-06 Niger food crisis
2006 Horn of Africa food crisis

4. Pestilences

Black Death - 1347-1351 Europe 30-60% of population killed
 Spanish Flu - 1918-1920 20-100 million deaths
 SARS -(severe acute respiratory syndrome) 1992 China 8m cases 770 die
 Avian Bird Flu - affecting humans in 1997
 HIV - 1980s - Current
 Swine Flu (H1N1) - Current

5. Earthquakes

January 12, 2010 - Haiti 230,000 die
 December 26, 2004 Indian Ocean triggering a tsunami killing 230,000
 March 4th Taiwan 6.4
 March 5th Indonesia 6.1
 Every day in Chili since Feb 27 8.8



6. Gospel Gone Global

50 years ago the radio was broadcasting in to unreached areas.
 20 years ago television was reaching homes around the world.
 Today the internet is instantly sending live streaming messages
 anywhere in the world that has connectivity.

1Th 5:2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

1Th 5:3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

- Day of the Lord - Will come
 - As a thief in the night. People are thinking everything is alright. **WITHOUT WARNING**
 - As a woman with child Expected but not knowing exact time **SUDDENLY**
- "They" - unprepared, Not Ready, are saying "Peace and safety" but destruction will come upon them.

1Th 5:4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

1Th 5:5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

1Th 5:6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

1Th 5:7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

1Th 5:8 But since we are of {the} day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

Children of the Darkness

Children of the Day

v. 4	In Darkness (dull, blind)	v. 5	In Light (bright, can see)
v. 4	Overtaken (unaware)	v. 6	Alert (aware)
v. 6	Asleep (yielding to sloth and sin)	v. 6	Not Sleeping (disciplined)
v. 7	Drunk (diminished control)	v. 6 + 8	Sober (composed, reasonable, rational)
			- Faith - Love - Hope

- Paul is addressing the Thessalonians on who they ought to be. Contrasting two obvious lifestyles. We see the two lifestyles today. So we also are addressed as to who we ought to be.
- Paul uses a soldier's armor to illustrate the readiness of being watchful and sober.
Breastplate protects vital organs. Faith and love protects our core, the moral center.
The Helmet protects our head. "Hope isn't used in the sense of wishful thinking, but in the sense of a confident expectation of God's hand in the future." (Guzik)

1Th 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Th 5:10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

- This SOBERness is composed, rational, and reasonable. We can be this way for we have a different destiny.
 - NOT a destiny for wrath
 - YES a destiny for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Believers are not appointed to the WRATH OF GOD. The Great Tribulation is the wrath of God as explained in chapter 4's study.
- Another proof text that believers will be taken before the Great Tribulation is Luke 21:28-31 *"But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Then He told them a parable: Behold the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near."*
 - Beginning to take place = Our Redemption (Rapture)
 - Things Happening = Jesus Returning (Final Battle)
- This is the GOSPEL. We were once destined for wrath because of the inherited sin nature from Adam and because of our own sin. But God appointed salvation for us through Jesus. Who knowing the penalty of our sin must be paid, took the penalty upon Himself as our substitution.
- As Dave Ramsey would have us say, "WE ARE DEBT FREE!"

1Th 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

- We are to continue to do two things now that we know this.
 1. Encourage One Another (comfort)
 2. Build Up One Another (edify)

1Th 5:12 2) 17 Quick Exhortations vs 12-22

Concerning
Leaders

But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,

- How do you recognize Leaders?
 - Diligently labor among the Church
 - They have "charge" authority over you.
 - They give instruction (teach / admonish)

Exhortations:

1. Appreciate Leaders Among You. (grateful / thankful)

1Th 5:13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

2. Esteem Leaders Highly (respect / admire) because of their work not their personality or title.

Concerning
Other People

Live in peace with one another.

3. Live IN Peace (put away squabbles and fussing)

1Th 5:14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

4. Admonish the unruly (those who are out of order / out of step)
Paul is telling the people not necessarily the leaders only.
5. Encourage the Fainthearted (those who lack courage to be a Christian)
6. Help the Weak
7. Be Patient -WITH EVERY ONE!

1Th 5:15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

8. Seek No Revenge
9. Seek What is Good for Others - ALL OTHERS!

Concerning
Personal
Worship

- The next group is concerning Personal Worship. It is interesting that Paul follows Jesus' instructions concerning having right relationships before we worship.
- **Matthew 5:23-24** "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

1Th 5:16 **Rejoice always;**

10. Always Rejoice
 - Christian you can always rejoice because your JOY is not in the circumstances. Your JOY is in who Jesus IS. That does not change. Circumstances change. Your Joy Won't
 - "Turn this book over and see if there be any precept that the Lord has given you in which he has said, 'Groan in the Lord always, and again I say groan.' You may groan if you like. You have Christian liberty for that; but, at the same time, do believe that you have larger liberty to rejoice, for so it is put before you." (Spurgeon)

1Th 5:17 **pray without ceasing;**

11. Pray, Pray, Pray and don't stop

1Th 5:18 **in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

12. Be Thankful In EVERYTHING! (because it is God's Will For you -- THANKFULLNESS --)
 - "When Joy and Prayer are married, their first born is gratitude." (Spurgeon)
 - It is God's will means more that we can do it rather than we must do it.

1Th 5:19 **Do not quench the Spirit;**

Concerning
Public Worship

13. Don't Quench the Spirit. (to put out or extinguish)
 - John the Baptist said that Jesus would come and baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with FIRE. **Mark 3:11**
 - **Ephesians 4** says to grieve the Holy Spirit is Stealing, Corrupt Communication, Bitterness, Wrath, Anger, Evil Speaking, Malice.

1Th 5:20 **do not despise prophetic utterances.**

14. Don't despise "Prophetic Utterances"
 - **Revelation 19:10** "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."
 - **1 Corinthians 14:1-4** "Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church."

1Th 5:21 **But examine everything {carefully;} hold fast to that which is good;**

15. Examine Everything
16. Hold fast to the good. (implied - throw away the rest)
 - **Acts 17:10-11** Paul after leaving Thessalonica came to Berea. Acts says the Bereans were more noble than the Thessalonians because they received the Word and "searched the Scriptures to see if those things were so."

1Th 5:22 **abstain from every form of evil.**

17. Abstain from EVERY form of evil.

1Th 5:23 **3) Closing Benediction** vs 23-28

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Sanctify = to set apart (for godly purposes)
- "A dress is a dress but a wedding dress is set apart for a special purpose, a glorious occasion." (Gusik)
- Sanctify Entirely = Completely. Not with holes or closets but in total.
- God does the sanctifying. It is His work.
- Our Spirit, Soul AND Body will be preserved
 - COMPLETE
 - WITHOUT BLAME
- The Divine Order for the Christian --- Spirit 1st, Soul 2nd and the Body 3rd (Led by the Spirit)

- 1Th 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
- On the merit of Jesus' Faithfulness is the guarantee that He will Sanctify Us. Complete Us. Remove All Blame from Us.
- 1Th 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.
- Paul was aware that without prayer any ministry he endeavored would come to ruin. Paul sought for prayer from believers all along the way of his ministry. Same is true with you and me.
- 1Th 5:26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.
- 1Th 5:27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.
- Paul desires that this is read by all brethren.
 - What book or letter do you recommend to new believers? The Gospel of John? Romans? How about one of Paul's first letters that he himself wrote to new believers. 1 Thessalonians!
- 1Th 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
- Paul opens and ends with Grace.

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