

Study Guide

Steadfast 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1. Read 1 Thess. 5:1-4. What is the challenge to us as believers, knowing that the day of the Lord is coming for those in darkness? How does that inform our current reality?

2. Discuss the contrast of being in the light vs. being in the darkness:

LIGHT	DARKNESS
Hope (4:13)	No Hope (4:13)
Believers (4:14)	Non-believers (4:14)
Rapture (4:13)	Day of the Lord (5:2-3)
Awake (5:6)	Asleep (5:6)
Sober (5:6)	Drunk (5:6)
Salvation (5:9)	Wrath (5:9)
Light of God (Rev. 21:23)	Outer Darkness (Matt. 8:12)

3. Read 1 Thess. 5:5-8. How does being a child of the light affect how we live our lives? Is there a sense of urgency? According to verse 8, what does this mean practically for us?

4. Read 1 Thess. 5:9-11. Since the purpose of our salvation is to "live with Him." (v.10), then how does that change the way we live now already? (Example: engaged couples).

Application

Discuss how we can encourage each other in light of the return of Christ.

Message Slides

Steadfast

Big Idea: The Power of Future

I. The Future for Those in Darkness (v.1-4)

“Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.³While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then **sudden destruction** will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will **not escape**.⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.”

See image of 21 judgment pic

I. The Future for Those in Darkness (v.1-4)

... then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.”

Luke 17:26-27

“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”

Big Idea: The Power of Future

II. Our Current Reality (v.5)

“For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.”

LIGHT	DARKNESS
Hope (4:13)	No Hope (4:13)
Believers (4:14)	Non-believers (4:14)
Rapture (4:13)	Day of the Lord (5:2-3)
Awake (5:6)	Asleep (5:6)
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Salvation (5:9)	Wrath (5:9)
Light of God (Rev. 21:23)	Outer Darkness (Matt. 8:12)

1 John 3:1-3

“See what kind of love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God ... we know that when he appears we will be like him, because we will see him as he is. And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

III. Our Current Reality ACTIVATED (v.6-8)

A. Awake (v.6-7)

“So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. Paul is not telling us to stop sleeping!”

III. Our Current Reality ACTIVATED (v.6-8)

A. Awake (v.6-7)

B. Intentional (v.8)

“But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.”

Big Idea: The Power of Future

IV. The Power of Future (v.9-11)

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

