

Ready for Christ's Return | Part 7

Lesson 3

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

October 22, 2023

Live Ready for Christ's Return

INTRODUCTION

Paul has more to write to the Thessalonians concerning Christ's *parousia* (second coming), having been forced previously to leave the city, disallowing him time or opportunity to placate their insecurities.

His message is one that has come from Jesus himself, whether in the solitary three years spent in Arabia, or at another time unrevealed in scripture.

"Let us not be like others," Paul advises (1 Thessalonians 5:6), while remembering "the rest of mankind, who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). One of Paul's strengths was his candor, and when armed with courage provided by God, he informed believers how they should make ready for the day of the Lord.

In the Old Testament, "the day of the Lord" revealed an example of God's power, frequently relating to His judgment (Joel 1:15). Christ's "day" also has an aspect of judgment, in that coming "like a thief" (1 Thessalonians 5:2) may not grant everyone enough time to prepare, which would be lamentable.

Memory verse: "So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober."

—1 Thessalonians 5:6

Pray, and read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. How quickly will the *parousia* (second coming) of Christ occur? (1 Thessalonians 5:3)
2. Even though believers no longer live in darkness, what may they experience on the Day of the Lord? (1 Thessalonians 5:4)
3. As “children of the light”, how should Christians prepare themselves for Christ’s coming? (1 Thessalonians 5:5-6)
4. What do the breastplate and helmet represent in 1 Thessalonians 5:8?
5. If God does not intend believers to “suffer wrath”, what is His plan? (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. In 1 Thessalonians 5:3, people are saying “peace and safety”, repeating the slogan of the Roman Empire, which also broadcast “bread and circuses,” lures to keep Roman citizens happy but obedient. What worldly or governmental assurances do we accept today that may keep us from trusting in God’s promises?
2. What current happenings in the world suggest we may be witnessing previews to Christ’s return “like a thief in the night”?
3. Encouraging one another and building each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11) concerning Christ’s *parousia* is easy and sound advice for all to follow. With prayer for help in doing so, the guidance is easier still. Include this request at prayer time.