

1 THESSALONIANS 5

LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

In each chapter of the first letter to the Thessalonians the Apostle Paul has spoken about the Rapture of the Church. In the fifth chapter... The catching up of the Saints of God is still on his mind.

The last three verses of chapter four are some of my favorite verses in all of scripture...

- **4:16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- Paul told Titus that this hope of the Lord's coming for us is our "blessed hope." (Titus 2:13)
- He told the Corinthians : **1 Corinthians 15:51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

CH. 5:1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day (**period**) of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

- Now that the Church is gone... "The Day of the Lord" comes when the Lord will begin to pour out His judgment on the earth.
- It will be terrible. Please do not be here when this happens. PLEASE be ready for His coming in the air.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

- Students of prophecy have known about the coming one world order for ever. Our world is being prepared for this (I believe) by the assimilation and

merging of governments and currencies.

- Wasn't it amazing how the entire world was convinced to shut down business for two years? Churches worldwide were forced to meet online or to not meet at all. Kids were locked out of school... And all of us were forced to wear filthy masks on our faces when shopping or going to the Doctor.
- It showed me how easy it was for the world to unite on a subject matter that is a pretty normal event – A virus. **BUT...**

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, **(Unsaved)** so that this Day **(period)** should overtake you as a thief.

- The rapture of the Church should not be a total surprise to us... My goodness, we have been talking about it and waiting for it our entire lives!
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- It's like when someone says, "Wow! Christmas just snuck up on me this year..." **REALLY?** THAT is code for "I really didn't WANT to get you anything, so I didn't."
- CCSV, Stay enlightened about the coming of the Lord for you...

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

- **CEV** - You belong to the light and live in the day. We don't live in the night or belong to the dark. **SO...**

BE READY!

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

- One of our contractors started showing up without one of his best guys and when I asked about the worker he told me that the guys started calling out on Mondays...Was almost worthless on Tuesdays and eventually got a DUI.
- Friend, please do not be spiritually drunk. Do not be under the influence of this world to the point that you miss the return of the Lord. **SOBER UP!**

PUT ON YOUR ARMOR

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of **faith** and **love**, and as a helmet the **hope** of salvation.

- I would love for CCSV to be known for these traits!

- Think about and pray with me about – ways for us to be faith, hope and love to our community.
- The next verse speaks about salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord and Showing faith, hope, and love is the way to share the message!

WE ARE NOT APPOINTED TO WRATH

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, **(Whether we go in the rapture, or die before)** we should live together with Him.

- We believe that just like the family of Noah when God flooded the earth, and just like the family of Abraham when God destroyed the wicked city of Sodom & Gomorrah for sins that we teach our children in school now, God spares His children from His wrath. **THEREFORE....**

11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. *(I find much comfort in these verses)*

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS AND BENEDICTION

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. **Honor those who minister to you...**

WISDOM ABOUT THE WEAK

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, **(Out of order)** comfort the fainthearted, **(Those who feel left out)** uphold the weak, be patient with all.

- Sometimes we hard workers struggle to be patient with those who are not...
 - WELL... Be careful to **not** judge too harshly. God has made the weak in His image too.
- Remember that "But for the grace of God... There go I"
 - Remember also that Jesus had three hard chargers on his staff, one traitor, and eight guys whose names you cannot remember unless you watch the Chosen.

RENDER RIGHTEOUSLY

15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

- Beware of wanting to get revenge... Chuck Smith says only try to get even when someone does a kindness for you!
 - The Bible DOES NOT say "Vengeance is mine..." It says, "Vengeance is Mine saith the Lord!" Romans 12:19 Hebrews 10:30
- Chuck Smith – "I have found that if I try to defend myself, the Lord will let me."

DO LIVE LIKE THIS...

16 Rejoice always, *(Not just when things are going well)*

- We believers SHOULD be the happiest people on earth...

17 pray without ceasing, *(You never have to stop talking to the Lord)*

18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- Be thankful for everything! It's God's will for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

- How do you do that? By ignoring Him.
- Have you ever had someone asking you for advice but then ignoring everything you said? Soon – You stop trying to help them. THEY HAVE QUENCHED you...

20 Do not despise prophecies. Do not get offended by the Bible. OBEY it.

21 Test all things; **(With Scripture)** hold fast what is good.

22 Abstain from every form *(Appearance)* of evil.

- **CEV** - and don't have anything to do with evil.
 - Young people - Your sense of loyalty should be secondary to obeying this verse! Only hang out with people who are like YOU WANT to be like.
- Old people - Your sense of loyalty should be secondary to obeying this verse too!
 - I don't have friends who are living sinful lives. I keep friends who are living Godly lives!

STAY READY!

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*. **(That is good news)**

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. **(A fist bump works too)**

27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.