

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**  
**The Day of the Lord**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

—1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (ESV)

vv 1-2 – Now concerning the times and the seasons...

times – *chronos*

seasons – *Kairos*

We are observers of days, week, and years – and we are observers of the “times”

The Bible has much to teach us about what to expect as time goes forward—both generally and specifically

“the Lord will come like a thief in the night”

The coming of Christ is sudden and final.

We are warned in God’s word always to live in readiness for Christ’s coming

<sup>36</sup> “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup> For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

<sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.—Matthew 24:36-44

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness.—2 Peter 3:10-11

When a person who rejects Christ dies, that is not the same as the Day of the Lord, but for that person, judgment has come upon him.

<sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” <sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.—Luke 12:19-21

We do not know—no one knows—when our “time is up.”

And Jesus teaches us that he may come in judgment at any time.

I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup> Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.—Revelation 3:1-3

The Bible emphasizes that we should live in readiness and in faithfulness—both for the Second Coming of Christ—The Day of the Lord—but also that moment that comes upon all people when their time is up and they must give an account for their lives.

Jesus comes when we do not expect him.

v 3 – The world will not be expecting the return of Christ  
like in the days of Noah  
While people are saying...  
“and they will not escape”

v 4 – But you are not in darkness, brothers...  
We have been told in advance “how it is”—we are not “in the dark”  
Here “in darkness” mainly meaning “in ignorance”

v 5 – For you are all children of light...  
Here, Paul transitions the meaning of light and darkness to include the nature of all of life, where light relates to truth and holiness and to God himself and darkness to a godless life and world

vv 6-7 – So then let us not sleep, as others do  
Here “sleep” means to live without awareness or care about God  
It also means to live in a careless or sloppy way when it comes to the things of the Lord  
We are to be alert and to be sober  
In v 7, Paul extends the metaphor that “sleep” goes with “night”—the state of the lost world  
And drunkenness is also of the night. Here, he certainly means literal drunkenness, but by extension this refers to all of the carousing and sinful activities that are a part of a godless world

v 8 – But since we belong to the day...  
Paul uses more specifics to show how people of the day are to live  
Be sober – meaning serious-minded and in control of ourselves

Faith, hope, and love: The breastplate of *faith* and *love*, and the helmet of *hope*  
The hallmarks of Christian living and character

v 9 – For God has not destined us for wrath...

For which we should be unceasingly thankful

Those who persist in rejection and unbelief are under God's wrath

Our salvation is obtained "through our Lord Jesus Christ" – no other way

v 10 – who died for us...

There is no salvation for anyone outside of the atoning death of Christ

There is no "Gospel" that omits the cross of Christ

"whether we are awake or asleep"

Now, Paul is transitioning again to use "asleep" as meaning those who have gone to be  
with the Lord (4:13-18)

More lit. - So that whether we might watch or we might sleep, we may live together with  
Him

v 11 – Therefore encourage one another...

All of this is for our mutual encouragement and our upbuilding

And that is how we should always utilize it!