

Lessons From I Thessalonians

Children Of No Surprise

(I Th 5:1-11)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From I Thessalonians.”
 - a. Last week we looked at “The Second Coming.”
 - i. **I Th 4:13-18** “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope... 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to be looking at “Children Of No Surprise.”
 - i. **I Th 5:1-11** “Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 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. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 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. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”
3. With Paul just finishing up explaining the hope that Christians should find in Christ’s promised return he turns his attention to another important aspect of Christ’s return...the Thessalonian’s mentality while awaiting that return.
 - a. With that in mind let us examine these important words Paul wrote inspired by God almighty.

I. Like A Thief In The Night

- A. Isn’t it interesting today that...
 1. So many think they can “predicted” when Jesus will come back today.
 2. So many think they can “know” we are in the last moments of life.
- B. Isn’t it interesting back then that...
 1. Paul made it clear the “very young” Thessalonian brethren “knew” they could not “know” when Christ would return.
 - i. **I Th 5:1-2** “Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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2. Paul made it clear that those who thought they knew the times would be caught off guard and unprepared.
 - i. **I Th 5:3** “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.”

C. Thus...

1. What we find clearly stated by Paul is that if we want to be caught off guard by Christ’s return all we have to do is be arrogant enough to think we can know when He is coming back.

II. Children Of The Light Vs The Night

A. Children of the light are not ill prepared

1. They are prepared for the unexpected return.
 - i. **Mt 24:44** “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”
 - ii. **I Th 5:4** “But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.”
2. They are prepared for the unexpected return of Christ because...
 - i. They are awake.
 - a. **I Th 5:5-6** “For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake...”
 - b. **Mt 24:43** “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.”
 - ii. They are sober-minded.
 - a. **I Th 5:6, 8a** “So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober...8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober...”
 - b. Notice those God has asked to be sober-minded.
 1. Elders **I Ti 3:2**
 2. Elder & Deacon Wives **I Ti 3:11**
 3. Preachers **II Ti 4:5**
 4. Older Men **Ti 2:2**
 5. Christians **I Pt 1:13; 4:7; 5:8**
 - iii. They are armed.
 - a. **I Th 5:8** “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.”
 - b. **Ep 6:14-17** “Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

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- B. Children of darkness are completely ill prepared.
1. Though they falsely prophecy concerning the return of Christ they are not ready for Him to actually come.
 - i. **I Th 5:3** “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.”
 - ii. Example: People do not live their lives, for the most part, think they are going to die at any moment. Most people are not prepared right now to die within the next hour.
 - a. So it is with the spiritually dead and misguided.
 2. They are not ready for Christ’s return because...
 - i. They are asleep.
 - a. **I Th 5:6a** “So then let us not sleep, as others do...”
 - b. **Co 2:8** “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”
 - c. **Ep 5:14** “for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.””
 - ii. They are drunk.
 - a. **I Th 5:7** “For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.”
 - b. **II Pt 2:12-13** “But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, 13 suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.”
- C. Thus...
1. We find Paul pleading for the Thessalonian brethren and us ourselves to be children of the light not darkness.

III. God Has Not Destined Us For Wrath

- A. Many have claimed that God created man knowing man would sin and thus created man for destruction and wrath
1. Atheist and agnostics are usually quick to assert such claims.
 2. Unfortunately this idea has crept in unnoticed in denominationalism also through Calvinism.
 - i. Salvation is seen as based on human understanding.
 - a. Example: If one says their saved and then at some point later they fall away they “couldn’t really be saved before.”
- B. The God of heaven clearly makes known He did not create man for wrath
1. **I Th 5:9** “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”

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2. **II Pt 3:9** “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”
 3. **I Ti 2:4** “who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
- C. Thus...
1. Let us rejoice knowing our God wishes His wrath on no one, all we have to do is stay walking in the light.

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren Paul ends this section like the previous...
 - a. **I Th 5:11** “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”
 - b. Let us do that today, encourage one another with these words!!!
2. Question: Are you awake or asleep?
 - a. If awake continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If asleep why not “wake up” and become sober-minded!!!
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**