

SERIES TITLE: ANTICIPATING CHRIST'S RETURN

PART SIX: KEEPS US ALERT

TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

INTRODUCTION.

The church in Thessalonica was started by the Apostle Paul. Although many believed (Acts 17) Paul had to run for his life from an angry mob. Concerned about the young church, Paul sent Timothy to find out more. Timothy reported that the church was under a lot of pressure, but doing well. There were some moral problems, and confusion about the return of Christ. So Paul wrote this first letter of encouragement and instruction. Repeatedly he tells them how to live in light of the coming Christ.

DISCUSSION.

Have you ever dozed off when you weren't supposed to? When and why did it happen?

EXAMINATION.

- v.1 How do you think this connects to the previous paragraph (4:13-18)?
- v.2 What is the point of the comparison to a "thief in the night"? (Consider other mentions of that analogy- Matt. 24, Luke 12, Rev. 3:3, 16:15. 2 Pet. 3:10)
- v.3 Why the comparison with labor pains?
- vv.4-8 Who are the children of light and day? (John 8:12; John 12:36; Eph. 5:8)
- How do children of the light avoid being surprised?
- vv.9-11 What is the good news here?

APPLICATION.

- Consider this quote from Mark Dever: "Churches do more and more to help us cope with this life, and less and less to prepare us for the next." How does this passage help you prepare for the next life?
- What are some common traps that keep Christians from being awake and self-disciplined?
- How can faith, love, and the hope of salvation keep us "sober"?

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?