

Living in Light of the End

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

"But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 5:8-9

Main Point: As followers of Christ we have no reason to fear the end knowing we have a job to do as we walk in light toward a destiny fulfilled in God's promises.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Ann Landers said "People are afraid of life itself." What does that mean and what are you afraid of?

Do you worry about "The End?" If so, what thoughts have come to mind when considering what it will be like?

Have a Volunteer Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

After experiencing severe persecution Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica to encourage and bring them hope by reminding them Jesus would one day come back and take care of His people. Until then there was no reason to fear the days ahead because uncertainty. As uncomfortable as it is to live not knowing our future, we can rest assured in God's plan and life unafraid.

We don't have to live in fear of the end because **WE HAVE LIGHT.** (vv.4-5)

What does Paul mean when he says we are "all children of the light and children of the day?"

Read John 3:19-21. What does Jesus mean when he says, "people loved darkness?" Why do people choose to live in darkness?

John 8:44 tells us Satan is "a liar and the father of lies." What lies have been spread to keep people living in darkness? What can we do to show them the light?

How have you been brought out of darkness and into the light personally? What difference has it made in your life?

We don't have to live in fear because **WE HAVE A JOB TO DO.** (vv.6-8)

Paul says we must be "awake and sober" as children of God. How have we been asleep at the wheel spiritually in the Christian Church?

Another word for "sober" is "self-controlled." How do we avoid situations where we could lose control of ourselves?

How is Paul instructing Christians to dress and what is he implying we need to be prepared for?

Helmets are used to protect heads from injury and the helmet of salvation is to protect us from attacks on our way of thinking. Read **2 Corinthians 4:4-6**. What knowledge are we to protect?

There is no need to live in fear of the end because **WE HAVE A DIFFERENT DESTINY.** (v.9-10)

What does v.10 tell us about our destiny? How is that different from those who do not know Christ?

Read the Parable of the Net in **Matthew 13:47-50** and the Sheep and the Goats in **Matthew 25:31-46**. Compare and contrast the stories and the destinies of those who are in Christ and those who are not.

What does Paul say is the key to being rescued from the worse fate? How does this relieve your fears of life itself and the future?

Pray:

As you close your time together pray the Lord would remind you of the light in which you live. That you would live with self control and being alert to the dangers around you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guard your mind against false teaching and to prepare you to give a testimony of your faith when called upon. Thank Jesus for preparing a place for you and providing shelter from the coming wrath of God.

Connect:

Listen to Jeremy Camp's song "There Will Be a Day" and meditate on God's good promise that one day we will inherit the kingdom of God where there will be no more sorrow or mourning! And until that day...cling to Him and rest assured in His presence and promises.