



October 5, 2025
Series: Week 5
Pastor Josh
www.lebefree.org

Live in the Light of Eternity - 1 Thessalonians 5

Light brings encouragement (4:18, 5:11, 14)

-How many of you have had an experience of being in a dark place, and the shadows playing tricks on your mind, and then you flip on the light, and all is revealed to be safe? In the same way, the light of God's truth should bring us encouragement in this dark world.

Consider:

What passages from God's Word have been sources of encouragement to you? What truths about who Jesus is and what He has done have you found to be a light for you during a dark time? Who might God be revealing to you to share the light of encouragement with today?

Light brings expectancy (4:13-5:3)

1.) Jesus is returning! (4:13-17)

-All believers that have died will be with Him

-It will be a loud, triumphant, and glorious event

-it is the depiction of a returning, victorious king (1 Kings 1:39, 2 Kings 9:13, 2 Chronicles 20:1-30)

-the clouds represent His glory (Exodus 40:34-38, Daniel 7:13-14, Matt. 17:5, Acts 1:9)

-As we covered last week, *we can grieve with hope for our loved ones who have known Jesus and have passed away*, and how *we don't have to fear our own death*. Regardless of if we are living or dead at the time of this glorious event, we will be a part of it, united with our loved ones, and celebrating our victorious King of Kings!

2.) Believers who are alive will be the welcoming committee... (4:17)

-They will join their conquering King, entering into His clouds of glory

-The phrase interpreted in our text today as "caught up", In Greek "harpazo", and later in Latin as "raptus", which is where the popular term "rapture" comes from.

Two views:

View 1: The Rapture and the Return of Christ are Separate and Distinct Eschatological Events

View 2: The Rapture and Return of Christ Occur Simultaneously at the End of the Tribulation

- "We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission." (EFCA Theological Conviction #9, "Christ's Return")

3.) ...Not the planning committee. (5:1-3)

-We do not know when this event will occur. (Matthew 24:36)

-Why are rapture "day and hour" predictions dangerous? They can lead to false hope and foolish decisions.

-We should not have our primary focus be on the "how and when this will happen", but on the "Who" that is returning.

Consider:

Do you live with an expectancy that Jesus could return at any time? How does this make you feel? How can we navigate conversations about when and how Christ will return with wisdom and humility, even with those who disagree with our opinions?

Light brings clarity (5:4-28)

1.) We can avoid the traps of despair, disillusionment, and depravity. (5:4-7)

-Those without their hope set in Jesus can experience great fear and anxiety, can see life as purposeless, can follow paths of other religious teachers, or may settle for the path of pursuing temporary peace and pleasure.

2.) We can live with confidence in our salvation, because of the finished work of King Jesus. (5:8-10)

-Our salvation is not a work of our own, it is a gift of God, freely offered to all who receive it.

-This Good News should be spoken of always amongst God's people, to encourage and edify.

3.) We can align our actions and attitudes with our eternal mission of Loving God and Loving People. (5:12-22)

-Paul's "P.S." -All are practical ways of living in light of eternity.

-Serve together faithfully, peacefully, honorably with your leaders in the Lord's work.

-Inspire one another with good work-ethic, patience, forgiveness, and joyful attitudes.

-Pray unceasingly, with open and thankful hearts.

-Surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit, discerning with His help what is true and what is false.

4.) We can trust that God gives us the peace, provision, and grace necessary to walk in His light (5:23-24, 28)

-We do not have what it takes on our own to live as we are called, but our God has offered us everything that we need to follow Him.

-When we receive communion, we announce the power of the Gospel until Jesus' return (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

Consider:

Is the clarifying light of God's truth exposing areas of darkness in your life? Do I believe that He loves you enough to call you out of this darkness, and into His glorious light? Has He brought you understanding of the next mission that He has for you to take on? Do you believe that He alone can give you what you need?

Further Study:

-Take time this week to look over the "consider" questions. Ask them to yourself in the Lord's presence and answer them truthfully. Then, perhaps sharing your answers with a friend can help you to apply any steps you hope to take.

-During September and October, join us in our study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, by reading it for yourself! Invite a friend to join you and engage together in what you are learning along the way.

-Below, you can find the three QR codes, linking you to the Evangelical Free Church of America's Statement of Faith, an article by *The Gospel Coalition* entitled, "The Rapture Question", and an article by *Logos*, entitled "What is Eschatology? 4 Views, Why There is Disagreement, and More".



 EFCA SOF



 "The Rapture Question"



 4 Views-Eschatology