

I Thessalonians – Fifth Chapter

v. 1 – 3 – This is a continuation of the information about the rapture (Paraousia). Paul probably is answering a question about exactly when the second coming will occur. He says he doesn't really have to address with them a specific time, because they should know that the day of the Lord comes as a surprise, like a thief in the night. And when they shall say Peace and Safety, which was a slogan of the Roman Empire, thinking everything is fine, then sudden destruction comes, and no one will escape judgement. (Reference: Mathew 24:37-44)

v.4-7 – But those who are in Christ will not be surprised like the unbelievers because believers are always watching for the day of the Lord. Believers are children of light and not darkness; they don't sleep, as those who are of the darkness, of the night, but they watch soberly for Christ's second coming.

v.8-11 – so then, we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, helmet of salvation (Reference: Isaiah 59:17; Eph. 6:13-17) Faith, love, hope helps us to repel the attacks of every kind of enemy to our walk in Lord. References to armour allude to the idea of conflicts, battles and war. But as we wait and watch, we are assured that God has delivered us from His wrath and judgment through the death of Christ Jesus, and has secured for us salvation, whether we are wake or sleep (refers to fourth chapter discussion of the rapture 4:13-17). So comfort one another with this knowledge.

v.12-22 – These are final exhortations, how they should behave as children of light, as believers. Its important to note that this is a young church; Paul probably assigned some leaders to them to govern and teach. v.12,13- honor and respect those over you in love. The work that they do should be highly esteemed. There is unspoken admonishment to obey them. He also ends that exhortation with "be at peace among yourselves.

v.14-15 – exhortations about human relations: Unruly, out of step with biblical Christian principle. Those who are living a disorderly and sinful life yet claiming to be believers, in a loving and gentle way, should be confronted, not just by leadership, but by the brethren. This usually facilitated by relationship in which we as brothers and sisters in the Lord submit ourselves to mutual accountability. Still, corrective exhortation must always be approached prayerfully and wisely. Not everyone is in a position, place or relationship to advise in this way. The feebleminded could be those weak in the faith, and the weak are those who are sickly. BE PATIENT TO ALL MEN. And don't seek revenge; don't give evil for evil to any man, but rather, do good, both among the believers and to all men.

16-22 – Rejoice, pray always, give thanks, don't quench or despise the Spirit or prophesying, but prove all things, test it by the Spirit and the Word. Abstain from all appearance of evil.

v.23-25 – Blessing that God will wholly sanctify them and keep them. God is faithful. Now please continue to pray for me (me being Paul) Read this letter to all the brethren.