

## I Thessalonians Lesson 05

### I Thessalonians Chapter 5

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Memory verses for this week: *Eccl 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.*

**Introduction:** *Last week in Chapter 4, we studied on how we need to live pure lives before the world to the honor of God. We closed with Paul admonishing the church to watch for the soon return of Jesus Christ. Chapter 5 not only tells us what to do and expect, but gives comfort to the child of God while making a strong warning to those who are following Satan.*

#### I. The Upward Look

*1 Th 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

*1 Th 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

While telling these in the church to watch for the coming of Christ, we now know that the rapture did not come during their lifetime. But if Paul gave them wise advice to be watching and waiting, how much more should we be looking for the imminent return of our Lord and Savior today. The one thing we know about the rapture... it will come in a day when we think not. When we had the millennium crisis on Dec. 31, 1999, many thought this was the day that the world would end. I was certain in my heart that it would not be that night, but it certainly could have been 2 days earlier to a few days later. People are not truly looking for Christ to return in our current society, so the time may very well be upon us.

*Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

*Luke 21:35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

*Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

*Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.*

*2 Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

*2 Pet 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

*2 Pet 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

*2 Pet 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

*2 Pet 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

*1 Th 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

*1 Th 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

Matthew Henry said this about the day of the Lord.

He tells them that the coming of Christ would be sudden, and a great surprise to most men, v. 2. And this is what they knew perfectly, or might know, because our Lord himself had so said: *In such an hour as you think not, the Son of man cometh*, Mt. 24:44. So Mk. 13:35, 36, *Watch you therefore, for you know not when the master of the house cometh; lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping*. And no doubt the apostle had told them, as of the coming of Christ, so also of his coming suddenly, which is the meaning of his coming *as a thief in the night*, Rev. 16:15. As the thief usually cometh in the dead time of the night, when he is least expected, such a *surprise* will the day of the Lord be; so sudden and surprising will be his appearance. The knowledge of this will be more useful than to know the exact time, because this should awaken us to stand upon our watch, that we may be ready whenever he cometh.

If you had to choose a time when people feel comfortable and safe, I think it could certainly be today in America. Many of the churches today have the attitude of the Laodicean church where they have plenty of money and have lack of nothing. But that was not their true condition the Lord said there Revelation.

*Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

*Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

*Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

*Rev 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

*Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

*Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

*Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

We see the condition of the world at the Rapture in Psalms Chapter 2.

*Psalm 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.*

If we are paying attention to what is going on around us, and understand the scriptures, we will see by the evident signs about us when Christ is likely to return. And it all points to the soon day of his coming.

*Matthew 24: 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

*Luke 21:29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; 30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is*

*now nigh at hand. 31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.*

We believe that when Israel was reformed as a nation in 1948 or 49, that was the time spoken of here about the budding of the fig tree. The verse says that summer is nigh at hand.

*1 Th 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

*1 Th 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

*1 Th 5:7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.*

*1 Th 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

We see the vivid differences between those who know the Lord and those who live under the bondage of Satan. We that have been saved do not partake of the evil doings of alcohol in the night time. We need to always live soberly and with our minds clear and thinking on the thigs of the Lord. He tells them to put on the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet of salvation.

This speaks of being prepared to go to war, and if you don't know the battle going on for the mind you are not aware of how Satan is the enemy of us all. If Satan can't get us to turn from the Lord one way, he will get us so busy we don't have time to look up. But we need to heed Paul's warnings, and be prepared for whatever is thrown against us.

J. Vernon McGee had this to say about verse 8.

Again he mentions the word *sober*. Let's understand that we have a duty to perform.

“Putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.” This speaks of a soldier's duty and is a call to that kind of duty. The breastplate of faith and love is to cover the heart, the vital part of the body. The helmet is the hope of salvation. As I write this, it isn't the style for men or women to wear hats—most people today go bareheaded—but it should be the style for every Christian to wear the helmet of the hope of salvation.

“Faith ... love ... hope”—this is now the third time these key words have appeared in this epistle: the labor of love, the work of faith, the patience of hope. Faith is a saving faith, and a saving faith produces works. Calvin said, “Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not alone.” “Faith” looks to the past when we accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. “Love” is for the present, which is the relationship the believer should have with those around him. The “hope of salvation” is that blessed hope of the future. We are not looking for the Great Tribulation period. I don't see how there could be any rejoicing in that! We are looking for that blessed hope, which is the consummation of our salvation.

*John writes, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).*

*1 Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

I have questions posed to me from our bible study members about my position on the rapture of the church. Some believe it will come prior to the beginning of the tribulation (Called Pre-Trib), others think it will be in the middle at the 3 ½ year point (mid-tribbers), and some at the end of the tribulation. (Post-Trib.) As this verse so clearly teaches, God has no desire to put his saved through the wrath to come. So I take a firm stand in the Pre-Trib position where Christ comes and takes us out PRIOR to the 7 years of tribulation. There are many reasons for this belief, not just this verse.

*Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

*1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

*Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

We are clearly told in 1 Thessalonians that we are to wait for the coming of Jesus from heaven, not the beginning of the 7 years of tribulation.

*1 Th 5:10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*

*1 Th 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

Jesus died to deliver us from the bondage of sin, and I believe with all my heart he will also deliver us from the wrath to come in the tribulation. Paul tells them to comfort one another with words of encouragement and live together for God. We should so love one another that we help anytime we can, and if one suffers, we all suffer for that sister or brother in the Lord.

## **II. The Outward Look**

*1 Th 5:12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;*

*1 Th 5:13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*

Paul encourages the church to put their pastor in a pre-eminant position and to show much respect for him. They are God's selected men, those chosen to guide the church and they watch for our souls. We should have great respect and pray for our pastor. And when he needs help, we need to be willing to respond.

*Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

The Believers Study Bible said this about pastors.

**5:12** "Labor among you" probably refers to spiritual leaders whom God has appointed for the Church. Here, as elsewhere (Heb. 13:7, 17), readers are cautioned to maintain attitudes of esteem and love toward the pastors over them. Further, the congregation is admonished to know those who labor among them, indicating a closeness of fellowship. i

*1 Th 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.*

*1 Th 5:15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.*

God wants us to have patience with those of the congregation that may be weak and unruly. He tells us to comfort the feebleminded and to support the weak. That is what our visitation efforts are about. Encouraging those who may be falling by the wayside and to reach the lost with the Gospel. Verse 15 tells us to not retaliate when we are wronged, but rather do good to those who may have done evil to us. This is not easy, but nevertheless God's desire for the Christian.

*Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

*Rom 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.*

*Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

*1 Th 5:16 Rejoice evermore.*

*1 Th 5:17 Pray without ceasing.*

*1 Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

*1 Th 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.*

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iW.A. Criswell, *Believer's study Bible* [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1991 by the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies.

A child of the king should realize what a wonderful position we are in as being joint-heirs with the Son. We should rejoice evermore and keep in prayer constantly with the Lord. That takes a lot of dedication and a mind set that allows the Holy Spirit to guide our steps. We should be people who remember to thank the Lord for our blessings.

Even when we go into restaurants, we should honor God and offer a blessing on the food. Not to be seen of men, but to let all know that God is important to us and that we acknowledge that our provisions are from the Heavenly Father. If we want to be people that really make a difference in life, we must let the Holy Spirit direct us, and that means we do not quence the Spirit.

*1 Th 5:20 Despise not prophesyings.*

*1 Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*

*1 Th 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

These verses are short and to the point. But they contain so many good commands that will truly make a difference in our lives. We should listen to the prophesyings and learn from them. I'm not talking about those who come out today and say they have a new revelation from the Lord. The whole Word of God is finished. The next word from the Lord will come from Christ when He splits that eastern sky.

We are talking here of the prophesyings of the Word. Taking the Bible and making it come to life and showing us things that are the deeper things of the Lord that only study can bring out. And verse 21 says to prove all things and to hold fast to that which is good. If someone tells you they are following the guidance of the Spirit of the Lord, and what they are doing is breaking God's rules laid down in the bible, they are very mistaken. God's Holy Spirit never directs us to do things in conflict with the Word of God. We are to live a clean life and to abstain from even the appearance of evil.

*2 Peter 3:3 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

*Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

*Rom 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.*

*Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;*



*Rom 12:7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;*

*Rom 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

*1 Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1 Th 5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

We see that like God in the trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, man is made up of three parts. Body, Spirit and Soul. Paul says that he prays that the whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of Christ. And that is possible because of Christ... not because of ourselves. Thank God that Jesus is faithful to us even when we may not be to Him. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.

*Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

*Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

*2 Tim 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*

*2 Tim 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

Paul told young Timothy that it wasn't Paul he relied on.. it was HE speaking of Christ that would deliver him on that day.

*1 Th 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.*

*1 Th 5:26 Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.*

*1 Th 5:27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.*



*1 Th 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

Paul gives them excellent advice when he asks them to pray for them. We should lift up each other daily in prayer. And our love should be such that we love one another enough that we would desire to greet one another with a holy kiss. I believe in our current society, our intentions would best be served by simply greeting another with a warm handshake. Paul wanted all of the brethren to hear his letter, that they might be strengthened and live for the Lord in a great way. As he commonly did, he closed asking that the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with them all.

As Christians, we need to realize how that we are a unique and peculiar people... a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and holy nation.

*1 Pet 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

*1 Pet 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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