

1 Thessalonians (ch 5) - Until He Returns

In chapter 4 Paul talked about the **hope** of resurrection, and the **promise** of eternal life.

Now we are living in a time between the **promise** of his coming and the actual **fulfillment**.

- Paul closes this letter exhorting them how to live during this time UNTIL HE RETURNS
- These are the things we should busy ourselves with
- 2 Pet 3:11 "Since everything will be destroyed...what kind of people ought you to be? "

Day or Night?

1Th 5:1-5 NIV Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a **thief in the night**. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them **suddenly**, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brothers and sisters, **are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief**. 5 You are all **children of the light** and children of the day. **We do not belong to the night** or to the darkness.

- All people will fall into one of two categories
 - Those in darkness - will be caught by surprise
 - Those in the light - will not know the date per se, but should not be surprised
- Those in darkness are scoffers saying "Where is the promise of His coming?" (2 Pet 3:3)
- To those in the light - **Paul encourages to live in anticipation of his return...to live with an eternal perspective**

Until He Returns

Be Spiritually Awake and Sober

6 **So then**, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but **let us be awake and sober**. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 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. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

The Night Brings SLEEP - The Night Brings DRUNKENNESS

- Matt 25 all the virgins slept
- 1Pe 4:7 NIV The end of all things is near. Therefore be **alert** and of **sober** mind so that you may pray.
- 1Pe 5:8 NIV Be **alert** and of **sober** mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Be an Encourager - a "HOUSE BUILDER"

11 ***Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.***

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

- Heb 3:13 NIV But **encourage** one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.
- Heb 10:24-25 NIV And let us consider how we may **spur** one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

BE A HOUSE BUILDER

- Pro 14:1 NIV The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

Hold Leaders in Highest Regard - Appreciate Them

12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge **those who work hard** among you, **who care for you** in the Lord and who **admonish you**. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.

LEADERS ARE TO:

- **Work hard** among you - a word that has to do with weariness
- Care for you - those who are over you, who stand before you, - **ruling/care**
- Admonish you - to put in mind - not judgemental correction - **based in care and love**

PEOPLE ARE TO:

- **Acknowledge them** - **know** them, be thoughtful, respect, they are men, but tasked by Jesus
- Hold them in highest regard in love ***[because of their work]***

Do What is Good for Each Other

Live in peace with each other. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, **warn** those who are idle and disruptive, **encourage** the disheartened, **help** the weak, be **patient** with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, ***but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.***

DOING WHAT IS GOOD FOR EACH PERSON VARIES ACCORDING TO THE CIRCUMSTANCE

- warn the **idle & disruptive** - a military term - out of rank
- encourage the **disheartened** - "little spirited" - resources too small for the task
- help the **weak** - "strengthless, speaks of spiritual weakness, not primarily physical weakness
- be patient with everyone
- do not pay back wrong for wrong

Keep a Strong Devotional Life - It How We Gain Heavenly Perspective

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

REJOICE ALWAYS

definition = to be full of "cheer", that is, calmly happy or well off - [it seems to be the cheer that is in our lives because we have gained eternal perspective.]

- Luke 6 - rejoice when men hate you or reproach you
- Acts 5 - apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Jesus name
- Luke 10 - rejoice that your names are written in heaven
- Luke 15 - rejoice when the prodigal son returned

PRAY CONTINUALLY

- Fosters relationship with God - Our Father who art in heaven - Holy is your name
- Solicits the help of God - Give us this day our daily bread, lead us not into temptation
- Produces change in my heart - forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors

GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES - THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD FOR YOU

Remain Responsive to the Holy Spirit

19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good

- Do not quench the Spirit - **don't put out the spirit's fire**
- Do not treat prophecies with contempt - **to count them as nothing - to despise**
 - skeptical - no belief in spiritual gifts
 - can't see past the vessel - receive a prophet in the name of a prophet
- Test them all and hold to what is good - **discerning is preferred to despising**

Pursue Growth in Sanctification

22 reject every kind of evil. 23 May God himself, **the God of peace, sanctify you** through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body **be kept blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, **and he will do it.**

- The rejection of evil is our part...He SANCTIFIES...He KEEPS US BLAMELESS...[spirit, soul and body - this works from the inside out...]
- He is FAITHFUL - HE WILL DO IT

Acknowledge the Need for Others

25 Brothers and sisters, **pray for us.** 26 **Greet all God's people** with a holy kiss. 27 I charge you before the Lord to **have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.** 28 **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.**