



STAY READY! CHRIST IS COMING!

I THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 BIBLE STUDY

DANNY SCOTTON JR





CONTEXT
PRAYER FOR HOLINESS
IN LIGHT OF CHRIST'S COMING

- 11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. 12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be **blameless** and **holy** in the presence of our God and Father **when our Lord Jesus comes** with all his holy ones. (1 Th 3:11-13, NIV)
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CONTEXT

EXHORTATION FOR HOLINESS IN LIGHT OF CHRIST'S COMING

- 1 As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.
 - 3 It is God's will that you should be **sanctified**: that you should **avoid sexual immorality**;
4 that each of you should learn to **control your own body** in a way that is **holy** and **honorable**,
5 **not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God**; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a **holy** life. 8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, NIV)
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CONTEXT
QUESTION #1: WHAT ABOUT
OUR LOVE?

- 9 Now about your **love** for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to **love** each other. 10 And in fact, you do **love** all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, 11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. (1 Th 4:9-12, NIV)
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CONTEXT

QUESTION #2: WHAT ABOUT THE DEAD IN CHRIST?

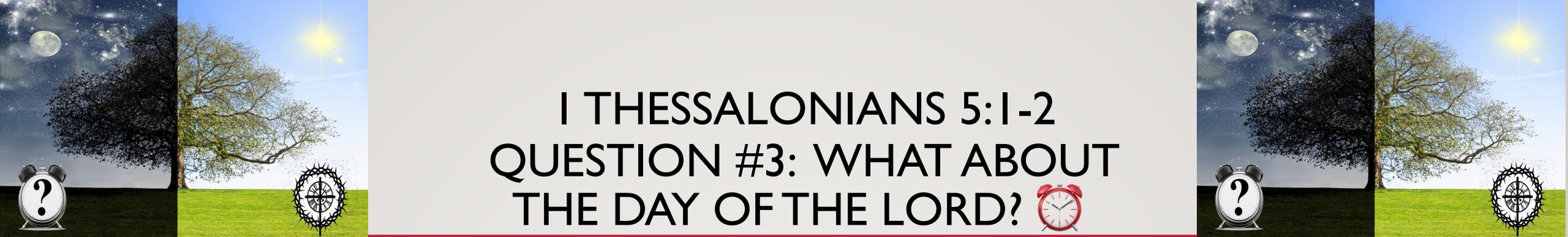
- 13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who **sleep in death**, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the **coming** of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.
 - 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Th 4:13-18, NIV)
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CONTEXT

QUESTION #2: WHAT ABOUT THE DEAD IN CHRIST?

- 18 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their **destiny is destruction**, their **god is their stomach**, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we **eagerly await a Savior** from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will **transform our lowly bodies** so that they will be **like his glorious body**. (Php 3:18-21, NIV; cf. 1 Cor 15:51-53, 1 Jn 3:2)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:1-2
QUESTION #3: WHAT ABOUT
THE DAY OF THE LORD? 

- 1 Now about times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves very well know that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. (1 Th 5:1-2, AT)
 - “But about **that day** or hour **no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, **nor the Son**, but **only the Father** (Mk 13:32, NIV; cf. Mt 24:36)
 - He [Jesus] said to them: “It is **not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set** by his own authority (Ac 1:7, NIV)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:1-2
THE DAY OF THE LORD:
BAD NEWS FOR THE FAITHLESS

- For the **day** is near, the **day of the LORD** is near—a day of clouds, a time of doom for the **nations**. (Eze 30:3, NIV)
 - Woe to you who long for the **day of the LORD!** Why do you long for the **day of the LORD?** That day will be **darkness, not light**. (Amos 5:18, NIV; Amos 5:20; 8:3, 9)
 - Wail, for the **day of the LORD** is near; it will come like **destruction** from the Almighty. (Is 13:6, NIV cf. Obad 15)
 - See, the **day of the LORD** is coming—a **cruel** day, with **wrath** and **fierce anger**—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. (Is 13:9, NIV; cf. Joel 1:13-15)
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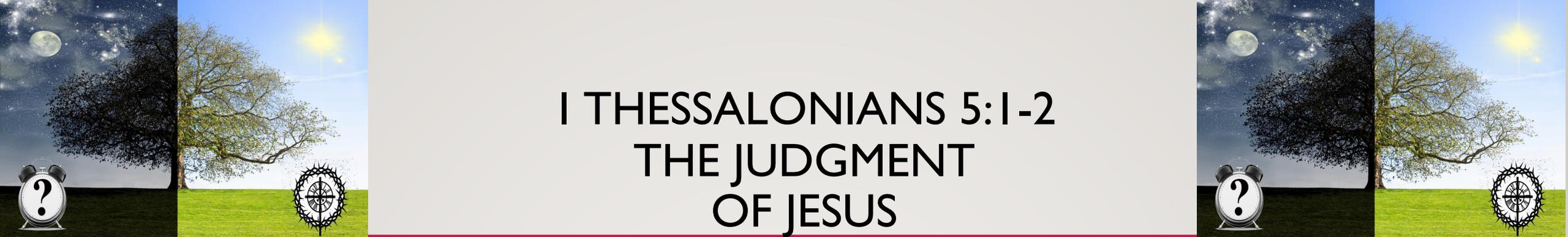
I THESSALONIANS 5:1-2 THE DAY OF THE LORD: GOOD NEWS FOR THE FAITHFUL

- 2 In the **last days** the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. 3 **Many peoples** will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the **temple** of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He will **judge** between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, **nor will they train for war anymore** (Is 2:2-4, NIV)
 - 31 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful **day of the LORD**. 32 And **everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved**; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls. (Joel 2:31-32, NIV; cf. Zech 14:1-21)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:1-2
THE DAY OF THE LORD:
NEW TESTAMENT

- He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the **day of our Lord Jesus Christ** (1 Cor 1:8, NIV)
 - being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the **day of Christ Jesus**. (Php 1:6, NIV)
 - if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the **day of judgment**. (2 Peter 2:9, NIV; cf. Lk 17:23, 30; Rom 2:5, 13:12; 1 Cor 5:5, 3:13; Php 1:10, 2:16; 2 Th 2:2)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:1-2 THE JUDGMENT OF JESUS

- He [Jesus] commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that **he** is the one whom God appointed as **judge of the living and the dead.** (Ac 10:42, NIV)
 - For he [God] has set a day when he will **judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed.** He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” (Ac 17:31, NIV; cf. 2 Tim 4:1; Jn 5:22)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:1-2
LIKE A THIEF
IN THE NIGHT

- 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the **thief** was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must **be ready**, because the Son of Man will come at an hour **when you do not expect him**. (Mt 24:43-44, NIV; cf. Lk 12:39; 2 Pet 3:10, Rev 3:3, 16:5; cf. Joel 2:9; Mal 3:1)
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1 THESSALONIANS 5:3 “PEACE AND SAFETY”



- While they say, "Peace and safety," then destruction will come upon them suddenly – just like labor pains in the womb – and they will never, ever escape (1 Th 5:3, AT)
- 8 He will punish those who **do not know God** and **do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with **everlasting destruction** and **shut out from the presence of the Lord** and from the glory of his might 10 on **the day he comes** to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. (2 Th 1:8-10, NIV)
- They [false prophets] dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. **‘Peace, peace,’** they say, / when there is **no peace**. (Jer 6:14, NIV; cf. Eze 13:10-12)





I THESSALONIANS 5:3 OVERLAPPING AGES

- “6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his **government** and **peace** there will be **no end**. He will reign on David’s **throne** and over his **kingdom**, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and **forever**. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.” (Is 9:6-7, NIV)
 - The people walking in **darkness** have seen a **great light**; on those living in the land of **deep darkness** a **light has dawned**. (Is 9:2, NIV)
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1 THESSALONIANS 5:3 OVERLAPPING AGES

- 1 Surely **the day** is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the **day that is coming will set them on fire,**” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to **them.** 2 But for **you who revere my name,** the **sun of righteousness** will **rise** with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. (Mal 4:1-2, NIV)



I THESSALONIANS 5:4-5 DAY VS. NIGHT LIGHT VS. DARKNESS

- 4 You, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness – that the day might catch you by surprise like a thief. 5 For all of you are children of light and children of day. We are not of night nor of darkness. (1 Th 5:4-5, AT)
 - This is the verdict: **Light** has come into the world, but **people loved darkness instead of light** because their **deeds were evil**. (Jn 3:19, NIV)
 - But the way of the wicked is like **deep darkness**; they do not know what makes them **stumble**. (Prov 4:19, NIV)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:4-5
DAY VS. NIGHT
LIGHT VS. DARKNESS

- But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you **out of darkness** into his **wonderful light**. (1 Pet 2:9, NIV)
 - For he has rescued us from the **dominion of darkness** and brought us into the **kingdom of the Son** he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:13-14, NIV; cf. 2 Cor 6:14; Eph 6:12)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:6-7
ACT YOUR AGE

- 6 So, therefore, let us not sleep like the others, but let us be awake and sober. 7 Because those who sleep, sleep at night and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. (1 Th 5:6-7, AT)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:8 ARMOR OF GOD

- Now since we are of day, let us be sober – having been clothed with the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of hope and salvation. (1 Th 5:8, AT)
 - 12 The **night** is nearly over; the **day** is almost here. So let us put aside the **deeds of darkness** and put on the **armor of light**. (Rom 13:12-13, NIV)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:9-10 BLESSED ASSURANCE

- 9 For God did not consign us to wrath but to the obtainment of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live together with Him. (1 Th 5:9-10, AT)
 - Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who **sleep in death**, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. (1 Th 4:13, NIV)
 - If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, **whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.** (Rom 14:8, NIV; cf. 1 Th 4:17)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:11 EDIFICATION

- Therefore, encourage each other and edify one another, just as indeed you are doing. (1 Th 5:11, AT)
 - 16 Don't you know that you **yourselves are God's temple** and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and **you together are that temple.** (1 Cor 3:16-17, NIV; cf. 1 Cor 6:19)
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I THESSALONIANS 5:1 CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE

- 19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with **Christ Jesus himself** as the **chief cornerstone**. 21 In him the **whole building** is joined together and rises to become a **holy temple in the Lord**. 22 And in him you too are being **built together** to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (Eph 2:19-22, NIV)
 - The **stone** the builders **rejected** has become the **cornerstone**; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. The LORD has done it **this very day**; let us rejoice today and be glad. (Ps 118:22-24, NIV)
 - **This** is the day which the LORD hath made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps 118:24, NIV)
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