

4/5/20SN, 3/15/12

Living For His Coming, Pt. 2

1Thess. 5:7-11

We began looking at Paul's discussion of how the believer should live, in view of the coming of "The Lord's Day". 1Thess. 5:4-11

- I. Paul said the believer is to live understanding the revelation of God. vs. 4
- II. Paul said the believer is to live recognizing their position before God. vs. 5
- III. Paul said the believer is to live in expecting the coming of God. vs. 6

Paul continues to declare how the believer is to live, in view of the coming of "The Day of the Lord", which is characterized by three things: 1Thess. 5:7-11

- I. The believer is to live prepared to meet Jesus. vs. 7-8
 - II. The believer is to live in full confidence in the promise of Jesus. vs. 9-10
 - III. The believer is to live resting in Jesus. vs. 11
- I. The believer is to live prepared to meet Jesus. vs. 7-8**
- A. The apostle Paul declared his commentary on the conduct of the unprepared unbeliever. vs. 7 (neg.)

- 1. Paul elaborated first on the attitude of the unbeliever in view of "The Day Of The Lord". vs. 7a-b
 - * "For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night."
 - a. The statement is an expansion of the previous verse about the unbeliever. vs. 7a
 - 1) The expression, "those who sleep", indicate the "others, the unbeliever in verse six. vs. 6b
 - 2) They are unconscious and ignorant regarding the reality of God's return for judgment and at other times, due to not believing the declaration of His coming.
 - 3) Their attitude is to live carelessly about spiritual matters, so Paul is using the word sleep, "katheudo", literally to describe the unbeliever, who rejects and unconcerned about the Coming of Jesus. Matt. 25:5, Mk. 13:36
 - * "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." Rom. 1:27
 - b. The unbeliever is said to sleep in the night. vs. 7b
 - 1) The expression "night" is used literally.

- 2) The unbeliever goes to bed at night thinking there will absolutely be another day tomorrow.
 - * Yet our lives are but a vapor of smoke. Ja. 4:14
- 3) The rich fool said, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years” but God said, “This night your soul will be required of you.” Lk. 12:20
- d. They do not believe the gospel to be saved nor His coming for judgment.
 - 1) So, they live as if He is not coming.
 - 2) So they live thinking they do not have to give an account to God.
 - 3) They live having no urgency.
- 2. Paul elaborated next on the actions or deeds of the unbeliever, in view of “The Day of the Lord”. vs. 7c
 - * “Those who get drunk are drunk at night.”
- a. The actions or deeds of a person will always be the result of their attitude!
 - 1) The double indication of sleeping in the night and getting drunk in the night denotes their complete spiritual insensibility!
 - 2) Not that people don’t sleep or get drunk in the day, it is not the norm.
- b. This practice of getting drunk is natural, don’t you remember?
 - 1) The phrase “getting drunk” is the process, “are drunk” “methusko”, is

- the state of being intoxicated with alcohol.
- 2) They get intoxicated in order to do as they please, lowering their moral inhibitions.
- b. They are said to be drunk at night.
 - 1) They are drunk at night yielding to the influence of the evil world system and their own sin nature, not being alert.
 - 2) They get drunk at night when it is more difficult to be identified, in order to not be accountable.
- B. The apostle Paul declared his commentary on the conduct of the prepared believer. vs. 8 (pos.)
 - 1. Paul elaborated by way of exhortation, first on the attitude of the believer in view of “The Day Of The Lord”. vs. 8a
 - * “But let us who are of the day be sober.”
 - a. The sharp contrast can not be missed.
 - 1) The word but “de“ is a sharp contrasting conjunction.
 - 2) Between the unbeliever of verse six and the believer in this verse.
 - b. The statement is also an expansion of verse six about the believer. vs. 7b
 - 1) Paul exhorts the believer, “But let us not sleep, but let us watch and be sober.” vs. 6a, c

- 2) The expression, “Let us who are of the day be sober”, identifies the same person, the believer.
 - 3) They are conscious and informed regarding the reality of God’s return for judgment, believing in His coming, the sons of the day. vs. 5a
 - 4) Their attitude is to live carefully about spiritual matters, the word sober “nepho”, means to have self-control, be calm and collective in spirit. (Thayers)
 - 5) The word again is in the present active tense, as in verse six, being vigilant in view of the Lord’s coming.
2. Paul elaborated by way of exhortation on the actions or deeds of the believer to be prepared for warfare. vs. 8b-c
- * “Putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.”
- a. The believer is to protect his heart by putting on the breastplate. vs. 8b
 - 1) The metaphor is that of a soldier and sentinel, protecting the vital organs, standing guard.
 - a) The quote is from Isaiah, God puts on righteousness, as a breastplate and the helmet of salvation. Is. 59:17
 - b) The aorist participle, “having put on the breastplate.”

- 2) The heart speaks of the inner man that has been renewed by God’s word, touching the intellect, emotions and the will. Rom. 13:12, 2Cor. 6:7
 - 3) Mans natural heart is evil. Jer. 17:9, Matt. 15:19
 - 4) Keep your heart with all diligence. For out of it spring the issues of life. Prov. 4:23
- b. The believer’s breastplate is comprised of faith and love.
- 1) Faith “pistis” speaks of our belief in God’s revelation, and a present and active living in obedience to God’s word.
 - 2) Love “agape”, speaks of God’s divine love, as a present active power to live out God's word.

* Both faith and love stand in opposition to man’s human knowledge and conditional love based on feelings and emotions! Gal. 5:6, 22, Rom. 5:5, 1Cor. 13:4-8a
- c. The believer is to protect his head by putting on, as a helmet the hope of salvation. vs. 8c
- 1) The believers mind and thought are constantly being attacked by the evil influence of the world, his own sinful nature and Satan.

- 2) The helmet, symbolic of the hope of salvation for the present, yielding to the mind of Christ.
 - 3) The helmet also represents the hope of salvation for the future glorification.
* Rom. 8:28, 31-32, Phil. 3:20-21, 1Thess. 4:17
 - 4) The word hope “elpis” means to anticipate with confident expectation, this hope stands for certainty, no doubt.
 - 5) Salvation “soeria”, means deliverance, preservation and safety for damnation for sin.
- d. This triad is found in the same order in the opening of the letter. 1Thess. 1:3
- 1) Faith points us to God’s word!
 - 2) Love motivates our passion for God and His people!
 - 3) Hope assures us that we sure expectation!
* A different order. 1Cor. 13:13

Illustration

We are to be like committed, disciplined and trained soldiers, who are prepared to resist and fight the enemy on every front, in every way are those who are looking to go home.

Application

1. The habit of living carelessly and irresponsibly in our day is not the exception in America, but rather the rule of sinners.
 - a. Young and old live for today, without the thought of tomorrow.
 - b. Young and old are immoral.
 - c. Young and old are unethical.
 - d. Young and old are dishonest.
 - e. Young and old are living for self.
* “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” Eph. 4:17-19
2. The believer is to constantly be awake, not asleep, distracted or under the influence of anything that will control him or her.
 - a. We have the mind of Christ. 1Cor. 2:16,
 - b. We are to fight with our spiritual weapons, not carnal one. 2Cor. 10:3-4
 - c. We are not to be drunk with wine, which results in ruin, but we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit constantly. Eph. 5:18
 - d. We are to put on the mind of Christ, that of a servant. Phil. 2:5

- e. We are warned in view of the potential of not living prepared to meet Jesus, with the full armor! Eph. 6:11-18
- 3. The believer is to always be ready and in expectation of the coming of Jesus.
 - a. The day is closer than when Paul wrote to the Thessalonians.
 - b. The day is closer than when I excepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, in 1973, 39 years closer.
 - c. The day is closer as we see the world aligning itself against Israel and talking about a one world currency, bank, courts and ultimately a leader, the anti-christ.
 - * “And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.” Rom. 13:11-14

The believer is to live prepared to meet Jesus!

II. The believer is to live in full confidence in the promise of Jesus. vs. 9-10

- A. The apostle Paul declared that the believer has been delivered from the wrath of God, to salvation. vs. 9 (neg.)
 - 1. Paul pointed out the reason behind the believer’s confident hope of salvation in the previous verse. vs. 9a
 - * “For God has not appointed us to wrath”.
 - a. The word appointed “tithemi”, means to set, put, place or designate, indicative aorist denoting God’s action in the past.
 - * Jesus used the word, “I chose you and appointed you that you should go forth and bear fruit.” Jn. 15:16b
 - b. The pronoun “us” identifies the believer, those saved.
 - 1) Paul, Silas and Timothy.
 - 2) The Thessalonians.
 - * “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the **wrath** of God abides on him.” Jn. 3:36
 - c. The word wrath “orge”, means anger, indignation exhibited in punishment.
 - 1) The word is used for God’s wrath revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, in the present. Rom. 1:18, 1Thess. 2:16

- 2) The unbeliever by nature is a child of wrath “orge”. Eph. 2:3
- d. There are two periods in the future designated to the wrath of God.
 - 1) The period of seven years, known as the Tribulation and Great-Tribulation, when God will pour out His wrath on the Christ rejecting world.
 - * This is part of the period of The Day of The Lord.
 - 2) The period of the White Throne Judgment, where unbelievers are cast in the Lake of Fire. Rev. 20:11-15
- 2. Paul pointed out the basis of the believer for his confident hope of salvation. vs. 9b
 - * “but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - a. Instead of wrath, they had been appointed to obtain salvation, like every believer in history.
 - 1) The word but “alla” marks the contrast, meaning rather or instead.
 - 2) “And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit.” 1Thess. 1:6
 - 3) They turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He **raised from the dead**, *even* Jesus

- who delivers us from the wrath to come.” 1Thess. 1:10
- 4) “For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they *did* from the Judeans.” 1Thess. 2:14
- b. The person who made salvation possible was Jesus Christ.
 - 1) The word through “dia” on the grounds and through the channel and agent.
 - 2) Jesus “Iesous”, His human name, Yahweh is salvation, Joshua in the Hebrew.
 - 3) Christ “Christos”, His title of deity, Anointed Messiah.
- B. The apostle Paul declared that the believer can trust the efficiency of salvation. vs. 10 (pos.)
 - 1. Paul pointed out the process of our salvation. vs. 10a
 - * “who died for us”.
 - a. Jesus died for sinners. vs. 10a
 - 1) The propitiation or sacrifice for payment of sin, was Jesus who “died for us”.
 - 2) He died in our place, on behalf of each sinner in a substitutionary death. 2Cor. 5:21, Heb. 2:9

- 3) For when we were still without strength, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Rom. 5:6, 1Jn. 2:2
- b. Jesus is the only mediator for sinners.
 - 1) The only way. Jn. 14:6
 - 2) The only name. Acts 4:12
 - 3) The only mediator. 1Tim. 2:5
- 2. Paul pointed out the product of our salvation by the death of Jesus, the desired purpose of God. vs. 10b-c
 - * “that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.”
 - a. That whether we wake or sleep.” vs. 10b
 - 1) The word wake “gregoreuo”. literally to watch and give strict attention, but in the context it means the saints that are alive.
 - 2) The word sleep “katheudo”, means to fall asleep, or drop off, but in the context means the saints dead physically.
 - 3) Both terms are used figuratively to indicate what is literal, both live and dead saints belong to Jesus.
 - b. That we should be together with Him. vs. 10c
 - 1) The believer who had died were with Jesus and He would bring them back with Him, at the rapture. 1Thess. 4:13-14

- 2) The believers alive at the time of the rapture will be “harpazo” to the clouds, together with the raise bodies of the departed saints and meet the Lord in the air and be with out love one, to always be with the Lord. 1Thess. 4:15-17
- 3) The fellowship in the community of God’s redeemed is a great privilege and it is all based on our fellowship with Jesus Christ

Illustration

Dwight L. Moody used to say, “I never preach a sermon without thinking that possibly the Lord may come before I preach another.”

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, the distinguished British clergyman said, “I never begin my work in the morning without thinking that perhaps God may interrupt my work and begin His own. I am no looking for death. I am looking for Him.” #10273 Vol. 2 Illust.

Application

- 1. The Bible is clear that throughout history those who are Christians have suffered tremendously, due to the evil of this world.
 - a. Be it in direct persecution for their faith, as many in the early church by Nero and others.
 - b. Be it under the great Inquisition by the Catholic Church, torturing, killing and confiscating all

the properties of Christians who would not deny faith in Jesus alone and pledge their allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church.

- c. Be it during the last century in the Old Soviet Union, the U.S.S.R. , Mao's take-over of China.
- d. Now we are seeing direct objections, legislation and criminal charges against Christians in the America.

* Jesus said to His disciples, "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin." Jn. 15:19-22

- 2. The Bible is equally clear that God has always provided at time throughout history protection, deliverance and removal of His people at times.
 - a. God provided Noah with deliverance through the judgment of God, as He destroyed the entire for their refusal to repent from godlessness and escape the judgment. Gen. 6-9
 - b. God delivered Lot from Sodom, protecting him from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah,

judging them for their ungodliness and homosexuality. Gen. 19

- c. God has promised to remove His church from the earth, prior to pouring out His judgment on a God-hating and rejection world, known as Tribulation and Great-Tribulation. Matt. 24, Mk. 13, Lk. 21, Rev. 6-19
 - 1) Paul told the Romans, "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from **wrath** through Him." Rom. 5:9
 - 2) Paul told the Thessalonians, "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - 3) Paul told the Thessalonians that the church will be caught up "harpazo", suddenly, violently and translated to the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. 1Thess. 4:17a
- 3. Jesus is the first One to promise that the church will be raptured and being God He can not lie.
 - * There is a lot of teaching within the church today that is denying the Rapture of the church!
 - a. This does not mean that the church will not suffer or be persecuted, even in America the closer we get the Jesus coming for His church.
 - 1) Certainly Christian those of WWII, particularly under Hitler's dictatorship, must of thought they were in the Tribulation period.
 - 2) Possibly, even those under Mao's Cultural Revolution, but the fact that the church was

not removed, means the Anti-christ had not come yet. 2Thess. 2:1-12

- b. Jesus said to His disciples, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself**; that where I am, *there* you may be also.” Jn. 14:1-3

* We must make the distinction between Jesus coming for His saints in the clouds to remove us from the Tribulation and His coming back with His church in judgment to set up the Kingdom on the earth!

- c. Jesus said, “**Watch** therefore, and **pray** always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Lk. 21:36

- d. Jesus promised to the church of Philadelphia, “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from **the hour** of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who **dwell on the earth.**” Rev. 3:10

* The hour, with the article, a particular period of 7 years coming on literally, to test the earth dwellers, we a heavenly citizens!

The believer is to live in full confidence of the promise of Jesus!

III. The believer is to live resting in Jesus. vs. 11

- A. The apostle Paul declared that in view of all they knew about “The Day Of The Lord”, they were to comfort each other. vs. 11a
- * “Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.
1. Paul brought the discussion about the Day of the Lord to a settled and clear closing.
 - a. The word therefore “dio”, means in conclusion.
 - 1) In view of the facts discussed about the period of the Day of the Lord, that it will end the church age and begin God’s wrath.
 - 2) In view that you possess all the information needed.
 - 3) In view of the fact that we are going to be caught up to the cloud to meet Jesus.
 - b. Paul told them to comfort one another.
 - 1) This is not a suggestion, but rather a command.

* The tense is the imperative present active.
 - 2) The word comfort “parakaleo”, means to call to ones side, having the idea of positive help to encourage and strengthen a person.

* It appears 8 times in the letter.

- 3) The command to comfort one another is the very same as regarding for the physically departed saints, both are imperative commands, in the plural, being reciprocal, in view of the information communicated. 1Thess. 4:18, 5:11
 - 4) Both sections go together and are related. 1Thess. 4:13-18, 5:4-11
- B.** Paul the apostle declared that in view of “The Day Of The Lord”, they were to edify one another. vs. 11a
- 1. Paul reminded the Thessalonians indirectly the benefit, strength and stability there is in community of the church.
 - a. The word edify “oikodomeo”, means to be a house builder.
 - 1) The idea is of encourage one another.
 - 2) To remind each other in the clear foundation of Scripture regarding "That Day".
 - 3) To remind each other that we need to go beyond the foundation of the faith to grow, develop and mature.
 - b. The church is compared to a body.
 - 1) No member is without benefit to the other parts.
 - 2) No member is able to say, “I have no need of you.”

- 3) No member can do without the other member, without suffering loss of efficiency and effectiveness.
- 2. Paul acknowledged their present practice of his command. vs. 11b
 - a. They had passion for their relationship to Jesus and the word of God.
 - 1) They were doing exactly that comforting and edifying one another.
 - 2) Literally, even as you are doing.
 - b. They were being witnesses to the entire city and surrounding region.
 - 1) From the beginning, “And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.” 1Thess. 1:6-7
 - 2) To the present time, “For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” 1Thess. 1:8-9

- 3) Till the coming of Jesus, “and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”
1Thess. 1:10

Illustration

During WWII Core Ten boom and her sister Betsy comforted and encouraged each other in the Scriptures and the words of Jesus, throughout every difficult situation, even seeing a blessing in the lice, that kept the soldiers from coming in a raping them.

Application

1. The amount of comfort that every believer can bring to other believers is due to the fact that we are all the same.
- We are all human, imperfect, frail and fail.
 - We are all prone to doubt at times or wonder.
 - We are all in warfare, being attacked by the world, the flesh and the Devil.
 - We are all enabled to minister to each other by our new birth, the word, the Holy Spirit and prayer.
- * “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.... But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called

- you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” 1Pet. 2:5, 9-10
2. The reality of being the church, not just going to church provides a great benefit to the community of God’s people, the redeemed.
- “Be kindly affectionate to **one another** with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to **one another**.” Rom. 12:10
 - “Be of the same mind toward **one another**. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.” Rom. 12:16
 - “Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which **one** may edify **another**.” Rom. 14:19
 - “Let us not become conceited, provoking **one another**, envying **one another**.” Gal. 5:26
 - “Bear **one another**’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Gal. 6:2
 - “And be kind to **one another**, tenderhearted, forgiving **one another**, just as God in Christ forgave you.” Eph 4:32
 - “submitting to **one another** in the fear of God.” Eph 5:21
 - “And let us consider **one another** in order to stir up love and good works.” Heb. 10:24
 - “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but

exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” Heb. 10:25

The believer is to live resting in Jesus!

Conclusion

Paul declared how the believer is to live, in view of the coming of “The Day of the Lord”, which is characterized by three things:

- I. The believer is to live prepared to meet Jesus!
- II. The believer is to live in full confidence in the promise of Jesus!
- III. ___The believer is to live resting in Jesus!