



1 & 2 Thessalonians (Lesson # 19)

The Day of the Lord – part 2 – 1 Thess 5:4-7

A Small Overview Review

Chester McCalley wrote a Commentary on I & II Thessalonians and he wrote that

I Thessalonians may be divided into two parts.

First, the Thessalonians are reminded of how they received the word of God (1:1-3:13).

Second, the Thessalonians are told how to live the word of God (4:1-5:28).



The Day of the Lord – part 2 – 1 Thess 5:4-7

Previous context to today's lesson, 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 5:3

*4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

5:1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.



The Day of the Lord – part 2 – 1 Thess 5:4-7

Today's text and a few of the following verses, 1 Thess 5:4 - 5:11, 23-24

^{*5:4} But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

⁷ For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

⁸ But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass...



The Day of the Lord – part 2 – 1 Thess 5:4-7

* 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

Ἰμεῖς [pron per nom pl σύ] emphasis is specific toward Thessalonians, **you**
δέ, [conj δέ] **but**, rather, instead, strong contrast to previous ones
ἀδελφοί, [noun voc masc pl ἀδελφός] brethren, **brothers**, of same parentage
οὐκ [particle or disj part οὐ] **not**, no, negation of context
ἐστὲ [verb ind pres act 2p pl εἰμί] **you are being**
ἐν [prep ἐν] **in**, by, at
σκότει, [noun dati neut sing σκότος] **darkness**, absence of spiritual understanding
ἵνα [conj ἵνα] intro to purpose/result, **that**, that is,
ἡ ἡμέρα [art+noun nom sing ἡμέρα] **the day**, here: the day of verse 2
ὑμᾶς [pron per acc pl σύ] 2nd person plural, **you**
ὡς [adv ὡς] comparative, as, **like**
κλέπτης [noun nom masc sing κλέπτης] **thief**, unexpected
καταλάβη· [verb subj aor act 3p sing καταλαμβάνω] overcome, overpower, **catch**

**** My literal translation**

But you brothers, are not in darkness, that the day like a thief should overpower you



The Day of the Lord – part 2 – 1 Thess 5:4-7

5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

ΠΑΝΤΕΣ [adj nom masc pl πᾶς] **all**

γὰρ [conj γάρ] **for**, (Not in Byzantine text)

ὕμεῖς [pron pers nom pl σύ] 2p **you**

υἱοὶ [noun nom masc pl υἱός] **sons**

φωτός [noun gen neut sing φῶς] **of light**

ἐστε [verb ind pres act 2p pl εἰμί] **you are**

καὶ [conj, καί] **and**, even, also, indeed]

υἱοὶ [noun nom masc pl υἱός] **sons**

ἡμέρας· [noun gen fem sing ἡμέρα] **of day**

οὐκ [part or disj part οὐ] no, **not**

ἐσμὲν [verb ind pres act 1p pl εἰμί] **we are**

νυκτός [noun gen fem sing νύξ] **of night**

οὐδὲ [conj οὐδέ] **nor**, neither

σκότους· [noun gen neut sing σκότος] **of darkness**, where light is absent

**** My literal translation**

you all are sons of light and sons of day, we are not of night nor of darkness



The Day of the Lord – part 2 – 1 Thess 5:4-7

6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

ἄρα [part or disj part ἄρα] **accordingly**, then, as a result

οὖν [conj οὖν] **therefore**, consequently

μὴ [part or disj part μή] **not**, no

καθεύδωμεν [verb subj pres act 1p pl καθεύδω] **we should be sleeping**

ὡς [adv ὡς] as, **like**

καὶ [conj, καί] and, even, also, **indeed**

οἱ λοιποί, [art+adj nom masc pl λοιποί] **the others**, the rest, the remaining (4:13)

ἀλλὰ [conj ἀλλά] **but**, instead, rather strong contrast of difference

γρηγορῶμεν [verb subj pres act 1p pl γρηγορεύω] **we should be alert**

καὶ [conj, καί] **and**, even, also, indeed

νήφωμεν. [verb subj pres act 1p pl νήφω] **sober**, *self-controlled, clear-headed, self-possessed*

**** My literal translation**

accordingly therefore, we should not be sleeping like indeed the others, but we should be alert and sober



The Day of the Lord – part 2 – 1 Thess 5:4-7

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

Οἱ [def art nom masc pl ὁ] **those**, they

γὰρ [conj γάρ] **for**

καθεύδοντες [part pres act nom masc pl καθεύδω] **sleeping**

νυκτὸς [noun gen fem sing νύξ] **at night** in the sphere of darkness

καθεύδουσιν· [verb ind pres act 3p pl καθεύδω] **they are sleeping**

καὶ [conj, καί] and, even, also, **indeed**

οἱ μεθυσκόμενοι, [art+part pres pas nom masc pl μεθύσκω] **those being intoxicated**,
being drunk

νυκτὸς [noun gen fem sing νύξ] **at night** in the sphere of darkness

μεθύουσιν. [verb ind pres act 3p pl μεθύω] **they are drinking**

**** My literal translation**

for those sleeping, at night they are sleeping, indeed, those being intoxicated, at night they are drinking.



The Day of the Lord – part 2 – 1 Thess 5:4-7

* ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;
⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;
⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
⁷ For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

**** My literal translation**

⁴ But you brothers, are not in darkness, that the day, like a thief, should overpower you. ⁵ You all are sons of light and sons of day, we are not of night nor of darkness, ⁶ accordingly therefore, we should not be sleeping like indeed the others, but we should be alert and sober, ⁷ for those sleeping, at night they are sleeping, indeed, those being intoxicated, at night they are drinking.

***** Wuest's expanded translation**

⁴ But as for you, brethren, you are not in darkness, that the day shall come down upon you as a thief, ⁵ for as for all of you, sons of light you are and sons of day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not go on sleeping as do the rest, but let us be constantly on the alert, and let us be mentally and spiritually well-balanced and self-controlled. ⁷ For those who are sleeping, sleep in the night time, and those who are intoxicated, are intoxicated at night.



The Day of the Lord – parts 1-2 – 1 Thess 5:1-7

Homework question 1

How does God speak to us in 1st Thessalonians, about His return for/with us?

- **The confident hope in our Lord and in His coming is repeated 6 times in this letter of 1 Thessalonians: 1:3 & 10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:16-17, 5:23-24, (7 times if 5:8 “the hope of salvation” is included)**
 - **It is not God’s will to have us “hopeless” about future events 4:13**
 - **It is God’s will that we be comforted, encouraged and built up 4:18 & 5:11**
 - **He has made us creatures of light and day not darkness and night 5:4**
 - **It is God’s will that we be aware of & mentally alert for His coming 5:5-7**
 - **He has given us the armor of faith and love with hope of salvation 5:8**
 - **He has not destined us to receive His wrath, 1:10, 5:9**
 - **He has destined us to receive only His blessings, the sum of which is life with Him forever 4:17 5:10 & 23**
 - **He will make us to be without fault 5:23**
 - **He will make us to be like Him 5:23**
 - **He will display us as His perfect work, before God the Father 5:23**
 - **His perfection or “glory” is the basis for all this happening 5:24**



The Day of the Lord – parts 1-2 – 1 Thess 5:1-7

Homework question 2

Things to observe in the Old & New Testaments about the 'day of the Lord'

1. It is in 44 texts of the Old Testament and 19 are explicit references to 'the day of the Lord' 25 are to 'that day', or 'that great day'.

Question, what are the 2 main things that describe this 'day' in these 5 texts?

- Joel 2:1-10, 3:9-12 & contrast is in 3:17-19,
- Zech 14:1-7 contrast is in 14:8,9, & 16,
- Is 13:9-11, 34:1-5 & 8, contrast is in 14:1-8, & 35:1-10
- Ezekiel 38 & 39, contrast is in chapter 40:7--
- Zeph 1:7-18, & contrast is in 3:13-21

2. In NT 'day of the Lord' is 2 times in Thess letters 1 Thess 5:2, & 2 Thess 2:2, it is also in Acts 2:20 & 2 Peter 3:8-10

Answer:

- **The focus is on the earthly nation of Israel and its surrounding nations**
- **First there is wrath and then there is blessing**



The Day of the Lord – parts 1-2 – 1 Thess 5:1-7

2 main things that describe this ‘day of the Lord’

- The focus is on the earthly nation of Israel and its surrounding nations
- First there is wrath and then there is blessing

First is wrath in Joel 2:1-11, 3:9-12 & contrast is blessing is in 3:16-21,

***2:1** Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near,
² A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been *anything* like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations.
³ A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them...
¹⁰ Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness.
¹¹ The LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it?



The Day of the Lord – parts 1-2 – 1 Thess 5:1-7

2 main things that describe this ‘day of the Lord’

- **The focus is on the earthly nation of Israel and its surrounding nations**
- **First there is wrath and then there is blessing**

First is wrath in Joel 2:1-11, 3:9-12 & contrast is blessing is in 3:16-21,

*Joel 3:16 The LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble. But the LORD is a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel.

¹⁷ Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through it no more.

¹⁸ And in that day The mountains will drip with sweet wine, And the hills will flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water; And a spring will go out from the house of the LORD To water the valley of Shittim.

¹⁹ Egypt will become a waste, And Edom will become a desolate wilderness, Because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, In whose land they have shed innocent blood.

²⁰ But Judah will be inhabited forever And Jerusalem for all generations.

²¹ And I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged, For the LORD dwells in Zion.



The Day of the Lord – parts 1-2 – 1 Thess 5:1-7

2 main things that describe this ‘day of the Lord’

- The focus is on the earthly nation of Israel and its surrounding nations
- First there is wrath and then there is blessing

*Acts 2:17-39 Peter says, it was not wine that made them hear about God’s Son in their own languages, but it was ‘what was spoken of through the prophet Joel’ and he quotes Joel 2:28ff... "It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind... ²⁰ 'the sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the lord shall come. ²¹ 'and it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the lord will be saved.'... ³² "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'the lord said to my lord, "sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'" ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."



The Day of the Lord – parts 1-2 – 1 Thess 5:1-7

2 main things that describe this ‘day of the Lord’

- The focus is on the earthly nation of Israel and its surrounding nations
- First there is wrath and then there is blessing

*2 Peter 3:8 But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,



The Day of the Lord – parts 1-2 – 1 Thess 5:1-7

So... what is holy conduct and godliness?

*1 Thess 1:9 ...you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

- They turned to God to serve the living true God, reveals a change in thinking, about God being alive, and the only reality of Deity.
- This eager, expectation of God's Son from heaven, reveals the treasure of these believers, they were focused on God's Son, Jesus, coming back here to rescue from the coming wrath. This is church age truth, He is coming to rescue us!

1 Thess 2:19 ... For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

- Paul shared these two Godly perspectives, This is reality! God eagerly is expecting the joy of being united forever with us who have believed in Him, & God wants to give rewards to those who let Him use their bodies, to call out a people to share eternity with Him.



The Day of the Lord – parts 1-2 – 1 Thess 5:1-7

So... what is holy conduct and godliness?

*1 Thess 3:12 ...may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. (also 4:1-12)

- There are two things here that only God can cause to exist and grow, and they are tied intimately together. First, we let God give His love, as only He can, to us as His own, and even to all peoples, and second, we let God form His unique holiness in us, as He literally reveals His essence both to us and through us.

1 Thess 4:4-7 ...you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

- Much can be learned from, 'sons of light & sons of day', but here are three things that stand out in the context of 1 Thess.
 1. We are God's 'new in kind' lights living in and revealing reality from His perspective
 2. We are equipped to understand & not be surprised by His plans for His 'day'.
 3. We should be looking and thinking factually about His plans for His 'day'...



The Day of the Lord – parts 1-2 – 1 Thess 5:1-7

So... what is holy conduct and godliness?

*1 John 3:1 ...See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (is purifying himself, even as He is pure)

- We will see Him and be like Him is a great promise to us and it is also reflected in the words of our Savior, 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'.
Lk 12:34 As His children, His love is sanctifying us, making His values ours as well
- 1. He will cause us to dislike & remove from us, all that is not liked by Him
- 2. He will cause us to enjoy and hold on to all that is liked by Him
- 3. He will reveal through us His essence, pure love focused on His values alone
- 4. He will give us rewards for the work He does to and through us, His representatives
- 5. He will show us as His finished perfected wife to His and our heavenly Father
- 6. He will share with us a meal of wedding celebration, enjoying what He likes to eat
- 7. He will share with us the joy He has, to take us united together with Him forever
- 8. He will share with us the management of His earthly kingdom, as priests and kings
- 9. He will share with us the joy of 1000 generations in His New heavens and earth
- 10. He will share with us the joy of turning over this New heaven and earth to God



The Day of the Lord – parts 1-2 – 1 Thess 5:1-7

So... what is holy conduct and godliness?

1 Corinthians 1:30 ... But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (KJV)

- Can you see this? It is God the Father who has made His only Son everything of value to us.
- Remember, we are God's children, He loves us so much that He wants us to be with Him and enjoy loving with His love, Him and all whom He also loves, and He has united us together as one living body, His own 'called out' ones.

*John 1:16 ...of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

- Grace and truth (reality) has come to us through Him alone.
- We are sons of light (truth), and sons of day (reality) now, & it is our privilege, by God's grace, now and forever, to live synchronized to the qualities of the light and day family, to which we belong.