



1st Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica

1 Thess 5:8-11 – The Duty in Light of the Day of the Lord

- *1 Thessalonians 5:8 – But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.*
 - To whom is this verse addressed and what is Paul’s message?
 - This is for the children of light. It is a call to be *sober* or awake, calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect!
 - *1 Thess 5:5 - You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.*
 - *Phil 2:15 - That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*
 - And this *sober* experience is to be ours in our day to day walk in the Lord.
 - *1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*
 - What passage does *putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation* remind us that soldiers engaged in spiritual warfare need to be armed!



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- *putting on* is to be clothed and is an aorist middle participle.
 - Eph 6: 14-17 - Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one., And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
- But here the *breastplate* relates to *faith and love* and *helmet* to *hope of salvation*; so, what do we make of these roles of armor in expectation of the *day of the Lord*?
 - The armor here is both offensive and defensive.
 - It's the life in Christ we all have isn't it?
 - » Isaiah 59:17 - For He put on **righteousness as a breastplate**, And a **helmet of salvation on His head**; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.
 - » 1 Thess 1:3 - remembering without ceasing your **work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father**,
- **1 Thessalonians 5:9 - For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,**



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- *For God did not appoint* (aorist, middle, indicative) *us to wrath,*
 - McCalley – ‘Wrath should be understood in the sense in which it has been used in this letter, i.e., eschatological wrath.’
 - Eschatological - relating to death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind (*Rev 6:15-17, 14:10, 19:15*).
 - Doesn’t this convincingly eliminate belief in a post-tribulation or even partial or mid-tribulation rapture?
- *but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*
 - *to obtain* best relates to *possession*
 - *Eph 1:14 - who is the **guarantee of our inheritance** until the redemption of the **purchased possession**, to the praise of His glory.*
 - But I thought we were already saved?
 - Yes, but this relates to how the Lord Jesus Christ is enlightening us to the *hope of our salvation*, something we can experience now.
 - *2 Thess 2:13,14 - But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, **for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.***



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- *1 Thessalonians 5:10 – who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.*
 - *who died for us* needs no further comment here, but was His death for us and the entire global history of descendants of the 1st Adam all that is relevant?
 - No, His death is totally meaningless without His resurrection!
 - When sharing the Lord with a questioning and curious non-believer, this must be our ever-important focus!
 - And the rest of this verse addresses this!
 - *that whether we wake or sleep*
 - Is this 24/7 or more, i.e., asleep as death?
 - Constable – ‘The Greek word translated "asleep" in verse 10 is from the same root as the one translated "sleep" in verse 6 where **the reference is to spiritual lethargy**. It is a different one from the word translated "asleep" in 4:13, 14, and 15 where the reference is to physical death.’
 - *we should live together with Him*
 - Why is *should live* subjunctive?



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- Strong – *with* - by association, companionship, process, resemblance, possession, instrumentality, addition.
 - Which of these definitions of *with* do you prefer in context here?
- ***1 Thessalonians 5:11 – Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.***
 - *Therefore comfort* (present, active, imperative) *each other*
 - Why is *Therefore* there for?
 - Here *comfort* is best interpreted to mean *admonish and exhort*
 - *edify* (present, active, imperative) *one another*
 - *edify* - to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, virtue, holiness, blessedness:
 - How is this accomplished, and notice *one another* – whose responsibility is this?
 - Keathley III – ‘This is the Greek oikodomeo,,,’ “to build up, erect, restore.” Here it is used metaphorically of spiritual edification or restoration as might be needed in the life of each individual believer. It refers to an intellectual grasp of the truth discussed so that it fortifies the heart and mind. But toward what are we to build up one another? Toward living for the Lord in the sufficiency of His glorious life. We are to help one



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another stay sober and spiritually awake in view of who we are as Christians and in view of our glorious inheritance. **This means we are to help other believers find their strength in the Savior rather than in the details of life or from the things of this world which is passing away and headed for sure destruction.** We are not to be a “this generation” kind of people who live as worldlings or earthdwellers, as those who make no plans for the future or are unconcerned about spiritual matters.’

Heb 3:13 - but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

2 Peter 1:12 - For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

– *just as you also are doing*

- Doesn’t this reflect the maturity of the Thessalonian church?
- Is the Lord doing this at Holly Hills Bible Church?