

Approximately 30 minutes Expository



## 1Thessalonians Chapter 5

### Children of the Light, Waiting for the King:

#### Opening Prayer:

**Father God, we come before You in the precious name of Jesus. Thank You for Your Holy Word, which is true, living, and powerful. As we open 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, give us understanding. Wake us up spiritually. Help us to live as children of the light in a dark world. Strengthen believers, encourage the weary, and draw the lost to salvation. And Lord, if there is anyone hearing this message who is not ready for Your return, please touch their heart**

**and bring them to repentance and faith in Christ. We ask it in Jesus' mighty name, Amen.**

### **Historical Setting:**

The church at Thessalonica was a young church, but it was a strong church. Paul had come there preaching the gospel, and many people turned from idols to serve the living and true God. But almost immediately, persecution broke out. Paul was forced to leave sooner than he wanted, so these believers were still young in the faith.

That is what makes this letter so precious. Paul writes as a loving shepherd to steady them, strengthen them, and remind them of what they had already been taught. In chapter 4, Paul spoke about the rapture of the church...how the Lord Himself will descend from heaven, and believers will be caught up to meet Him in the air. Now in

chapter 5, he continues by speaking about **the Day of the Lord.**

And that is very important in a pre-tribulation, pre-millennial understanding of Scripture. The rapture of the church is not the same event as the Day of the Lord. The rapture is a comfort for the church. The Day of the Lord is a time of judgment upon a Christ-rejecting world. Paul wants believers to understand the difference and to live in readiness.

### **1Thessalonians 5:1-3 .... The Day of the Lord Will Come Suddenly:**

**1Thessalonians 5:1-3(NIV) Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> 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.**

Paul begins:

**“Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you”** (v.1)

In other words, they had already been taught the framework. Paul says, **“You know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night”**. (v.2)

A thief does not announce himself. He does not send a warning text. He comes unexpectedly.

Then Paul says something chilling: **“While people are saying, ‘Peace and safety,’ destruction will come on them suddenly”** .... (v.3). That is the false

confidence of the world. Humanity keeps imagining it can build peace without the Prince of Peace. The world talks about

security, stability, and human solutions, yet underneath it all is spiritual blindness.

Jesus said it would be like the days of Noah. People were eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling, living ordinary life....and then judgment came. That does not mean daily life is sinful in itself. It means the world will go on as though God will never intervene. Then suddenly, **He will.**

👉 Brothers and Sisters, that is the spirit of this age.

- The world is asleep.
- It is distracted.
- It is confident in man and careless toward God.

👉 But prophecy tells us that history is not spinning out of control. It is moving toward a divine appointment.

## 1Thessalonians 5:4-8 ... You Are Children of the Light:

**1Thessalonians 5:4-8(NIV) <sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> 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.**

So Let's look at verse 4...

**“But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief”** (v.4).

- Notice that. Believers are not in darkness.
- We are not stumbling around spiritually blind.
- We are not meant to live confused about the times.

Paul is not saying we know dates and hours.

👉 He is saying we know the character of the season and the certainty of God's plan.

**“You are all children of the light and children of the day”** (v.5).

That is identity language. This is who you are in Christ. Before salvation, we walked in darkness. Our minds were darkened. Our hearts were blind.

🔓 But when Jesus saved us, He brought us into the light.

So Paul says, **“let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober”** (v.6).

🔑 Sleep here is not physical sleep. It is spiritual dullness. It is a careless heart. It is drifting through life without urgency, without discernment, without watchfulness.

👉 To be sober means spiritually steady, clear-minded, and self-controlled. It means you are not intoxicated by the spirit of the age. You are not drunk on the world's values. You are alert. You are watching. You are anchored in truth.

Paul adds this picture in verse 8:

**“....putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”** (v.8)

- Faith guards the heart.
- Love shapes the life.
- Hope protects the mind.

What a beautiful trio...faith, love, and hope. Those are marks of a healthy believer.

👉 And in a pre-tribulation understanding, this is especially encouraging. Paul is not telling the church to brace for God's wrath.

💡 He is telling the church to live like people who belong to the day and are waiting for their King.

## 1Thessalonians 5:9-11 ... Not Appointed to Wrath:

**1Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NIV) <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.**

These verses are central:

**“For God did not appoint us to suffer**

**wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”** (v.9).

That is a wonderful promise.

👉 The church is not appointed to wrath.

- Jesus took the wrath we deserved **at the cross.**
- He bore judgment in our place.
- He satisfied divine justice.

💡 Therefore, for the believer, there is no condemnation.

In a pre-tribulation framework, this verse also corresponds beautifully with the promise of deliverance before the outpouring of the Day of the Lord.

The tribulation is not the church's hope.

🔑 Jesus is the church's hope.

Verse 10 says, **“He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.”** (v.10)

Whether living believers at His coming or believers who have died in Christ, we belong to Him.

- Death does not separate us from Christ.
- Life does not separate us from Christ.
- The future will not separate us from Christ.

Then Paul says, **“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up....”**  
(v.11).

Prophecy is meant to strengthen believers, not scare them. We do not study Christ’s return to live in fear or to predict dates. We study it so we will live holy, stay ready, and encourage each other with God’s truth.

## **1Thessalonians 5:12-15 .... Life in a Healthy Church:**

**1Thessalonians 5:12-15(NIV)<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.***

Paul now gets very practical....

He tells them to respect those who labor among them and care for them in the Lord.

- Spiritual leadership is not about celebrity; it is about faithful service.
- Those who teach the Word, pray, counsel, and watch over souls should be loved and appreciated.

Then comes a string of commands:

**“....Live in peace with each other”** (v.13).

**“....Warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone”**

(v.14).

👉 That covers a lot of ministry.

- Some people need warning.
- Some need comfort.
- Some need support.
- And everybody needs patience.

A mature church is not a church without problems. It is a church that handles people biblically.

**“Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong....”** (v.15).

- That is supernatural Christianity. The flesh wants revenge. Jesus calls us to grace. The world says, “Hit back.” Christ says, “Do what is good.” That is not weakness. That is Spirit-filled strength.

## 1Thessalonians 5:16-22 ... Marks of a Spirit-Filled Life:

**1Thessalonians 5:16-22(NIV) <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

**<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.**

These verses are short, but they are rich: **“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances....”** (vv.16-18).

This does not mean we pretend pain is pleasant. 🙌 It means our joy is rooted deeper than circumstances. We rejoice because Christ has saved us, keeps us, and is coming for us.

Pray continually. That means live in constant dependence on God.

- Prayer is not only a scheduled event. It is a lifestyle. It is the heart turning toward heaven all through the day.

Give thanks in all circumstances. Not necessarily for every painful thing, but in every circumstance we can still thank God for His presence, His promises, and His faithfulness.

Then Paul says, **“Do not quench the Spirit”** (v.19).

- Do not smother His work.
- Do not resist His conviction.
- Do not ignore His leading.

At the same time, **“do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good...”** (vv.20–21).

That is balance. We do not foolishly accept everything that sounds spiritual, but neither do we despise what God may be doing.

💡 We test everything **by Scripture.**

That is especially important in prophecy studies. There must be excitement, yes....but also discernment. There must be hope, but also biblical balance.

## 1Thessalonians 5:23-24 .... The Faithfulness of God:

**1Thessalonians 5:23-24(NIV)<sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.**

Paul closes this section with one of the sweetest promises in the chapter:

**“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through”** (v.23).

👉 Sanctification means being set apart more and more for God. God Himself is at work in us.

Then verse 24: **“The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.”** (v.24)


What a promise.

 **Your security** is not rooted in “your grip” on God, but in **“God’s grip”** on you.

- He called you.
- He will keep working in you.
- He will complete what He started.

## Invitation ... Are You Ready for His Coming?:

This chapter presses a question on every heart:..... **Are you ready?**

- You may know about Jesus, but do you know Him personally?
- You may have been around church, heard sermons, or had a Bible for years.  
 But have you been born again?

The world is in darkness, but Jesus still saves.

- He died for your sins on the cross.
- He was buried.
- He rose again on the third day.
- He offers forgiveness, new life, and eternal hope to all who will come to Him by faith.

If you have never trusted Christ, do not put it off.

The Day of the Lord will come suddenly.

👉 Life is fragile.

👉 Eternity is real.

But the good news is this: the door of grace is still open right now.

**Revelation 3:20(NIV)<sup>20</sup> *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.***

You can call on Him today: Pray this.....

**“Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner.... I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again..... Please forgive me and wash me clean..... I turn from my sin and place my trust in You alone..... Be my Lord and Savior..... Make me ready for Your coming..... Fill me with Your Spirit and help me walk in Your light.... In Jesus’ name, Amen.”**

“If” you prayed that from your heart, the Lord hears you, forgives you, and saves you.

**Romans 10:9(NIV) *<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.***

Don’t stay where you are at. If you received salvation today..... Tell someone.

- Read the Bible daily

- Grow in Jesus
- Ask about Baptism, and what it is....

God Loves you.... Let us Pray.....

### **Closing Prayer:**

Father God, thank You for the truth of 1Thessalonians chapter 5. Thank You that we are children of the light and not of the darkness. Thank You that we are not appointed to wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us live awake, sober, holy, joyful, prayerful, and ready. Strengthen Your church. Encourage us. Help us build one another up.

And Lord Jesus, keep our hearts watching for Your return. Let us not drift, not compromise, and not fall asleep spiritually. Make us faithful until the day we see You face to face.

We ask all of this in the powerful and precious name of Jesus. Amen.