

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Asleep in the Light? An Exhortation”

1 Thessalonians 5:4-7

JULY 20 – JULY 26, 2008

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

THE LORD'S DAY – We continue to move along this week through **chapter 5** of our study in **1 Thessalonians**. We are going to pick up the text in verse four as we now move into exhortation to us who are not *“in darkness”* and who are told will not be *“overtaken”* when Christ returns to judge the world on *“The Day of The Lord”*. Even as true believers we see that Holy Scripture continues to exhort us to be diligent and beware of *“sleep”*. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:4-7**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.

MONDAY –As I mentioned last week we find great hope as believers in **verse 4** where we read, *“But you, brethren, are not in darkness so that this day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light...”* Instead of being overtaken, we are *“sons of light”* and are to live prepared, unashamed, and expectant of Jesus' return. The clear distinction between the saved and lost is seen when Paul uses the word *“brethren”* to describe those who are not caught and overtaken in judgment on The Day of The Lord. As you have heard me say numerous times, this Greek word is one of my favorites. It is the word adelphos which is made up of the connecting particle (a) and the word for womb (delphus). It links different individuals to being *“born from the same womb”* and is used to describe the family relationship of brothers and sisters. The starting point for being in the family of God is birth and spiritually speaking, there is NO life in an individual until they are *“born of God”*. Just like in human, physical birth the baby has no power but is brought to life without exercising its own ability or *“choosing to live”*, so salvation is a work of grace that is accomplished by God alone as He regenerates a lifeless, dead sinner through the power of His Word and His gospel. Those born of God did not *“choose Him”* rather He *“chose them”*. Read **John 1:12-13, 15:16, Acts 13:48, Ephesians 2:1-10**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: If you have been brought to spiritual life by God through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, praise Him for His grace. Ask God to bring life to those who are dead and lost around you and to help you clearly proclaim the good news of the gospel to them.

TUESDAY –For some further explanation of this text I quote **Robert H. Gundry** (*The Church and The Tribulation*). *“In verse 2 & 3 Paul writes that the day of the Lord will overtake the wicked with sudden destruction, “like a thief in the night”.*

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

For the figure of a thief in the night, we may recall Matthew 24:43, where the context is posttribulational (cf. also Luke 12:39); Revelation 3:3, where “like a thief” is qualified by the clause, “If therefore you will not wake up”; and Revelation 16:15, where the context again is posttribulational. But the day of the Lord will not overtake Christians like a thief (1 Thessalonians 5:4). Is it that Christians will be removed before the day of the Lord begins? But why then the contrast with the *unexpectedness* of the day’s arrival for the wicked if the day will not arrive *at all* upon Christians? And why the exhortation to watchfulness (v.6) if the church will see (from the earthly standpoint, of course) neither the tribulational signs preceding the day nor the day of the Lord itself? And why the previous oral instruction and the written repetition of that instruction in 2 Thessalonians concerning the times and epochs? Alternatively and preferably, the day of the Lord will not overtake Christians like a thief because they will be watching. They will have seen the tribulational signs and prepared themselves for the arrival of the day. This view comports with the wording of the statement, with the context here and in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 (and elsewhere) regarding precursive signs, and with the exhortation to watchfulness. And because of the posttribulational beginning of the day of the Lord, the relevance of that day to the church rules out a pretribulational rapture.” Read **Matthew 24:43, Revelation 3:3, 16:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” **Luke 21:28.**

WEDNESDAY –In **verse 5** we see the Apostle expand further on the point of us as “*brethren*” being prepared for Christ’s coming. He calls us “*sons of light*” and “*sons of the day*” and adds we are “*not of the night nor of darkness*”. **John Calvin** comments, “He now admonishes them as to what is the duty of believers, that they look forward in hope to that day, though it be remote. And this is what is intended in the metaphor of *day* and *light*. The coming of Christ will take by surprise those that are carelessly giving way to indulgence, because, being enveloped in darkness; they see nothing, for no darkness is more dense than ignorance of God. We, on the other hand, on whom Christ has shone by the faith of his gospel, differ much from them, for that saying of Isaiah is truly accomplished in us, that while darkness covers the earth, the Lord arises upon us, and his glory is seen in us. He admonishes us, therefore, that it were an unseemly thing that we should be caught by Christ asleep, as it were, or seeing nothing, while the full blaze of light is shining forth upon us. He calls them *children of light*, in accordance with the Hebrew idiom, as meaning — furnished with light; as also *children of the day*, meaning — those who enjoy the light of day. And this he again confirms, when he says that we are *not of the night nor of darkness*, because the Lord has rescued us from it. For it is as though he had said that we have not been enlightened by the Lord with a view to our walking in darkness.” Read **Isaiah 60:1-3, John 1:4-13.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, thank You for opening my eyes to the “light”.*

THURSDAY –I would like to add just a few more thoughts concerning being “*sons of light*”. Scripture is replete with texts that describe the lost as being in darkness as well as texts which describe true believers as being in the light. This is the entire distinction being brought out in our text as to why those who are without Christ (in darkness) will not escape the judgment of the day of the Lord while we who are in Christ (sons of light) will not be taken in judgment or by surprise at this day. The next couple of days we will look at the exhortation to us as believers to be diligent and watchful in our living until Christ returns but I would leave you with some Scriptures today that speak more to this darkness/light distinction. Read **Colossians 1:13, 1 Peter 2:9-10, 2 Corinthians 4:4-6, 2 Timothy 1:10.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Almighty God, praise you for the light of the glorious gospel seen in the face of Jesus Christ that You commanded to shine in my heart.*

FRIDAY –We turn now to **verse 6** of our text where we start to see some practical exhortations to us who are “*sons of light*”. Because of our being delivered from darkness, “*Therefore, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*” Even as believers we are warned in Scripture to be diligent, to watch, and to be “*sober*” (self controlled) so as to be ready and prepared to come before the judgment bar of God. Understand all who escape and are delivered from eternal condemnation do so not by their “clean living” but by the righteousness of Christ being imputed to them by faith alone. It is Jesus who died in the place of His people taking the punishment for their sins upon Himself and He then gives us His righteousness to stand before God justified. There is no way a true regenerate person can lose their salvation just as you could not physically “unbirth” yourself. But this does not mean we should rely on some “decision” we made for Jesus some moment in time way back when. We are to as the Apostle Peter told us, “*be even more diligent to make your call and election sure*”. True Christians are called to be alert and watchful to the issues of life which surround them. Those “asleep in the light” may be wakened and found to be false professors, caught as by a thief in the night when Jesus returns. May we heed Christ’s warning of **John 12:35-36.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Jesus, keep me from false, cold, deadly religious hypocrisy that would provide me false comfort while “asleep in the light”.*

SATURDAY –**Verse 7** contains further explanation. May we live sober as Calvin says, “For this is spiritual sobriety, when we use this world so sparingly and temperately that we are not entangled with its allurements.” Jesus & Paul give expositions of the thoughts in this text. Read **John 3:19-21, Romans 13:11-14.**

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, All praise be to You! Enable us as You people to live in the light for Your glory and honor.*