

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“The Difference Is Night & Day”

1 Thessalonians 5:7-11

August 3 – August 9, 2008

THE LORD'S DAY – As we continue this week through **chapter 5** of our study in **1 Thessalonians** we are going to pick up where we left off a couple weeks ago in our morning message. We were looking at **verse 7** when we ran out of time so it is there we will begin and move through **verse 11** as we talk about “*The Difference is Night & Day*”. We will see that there is a distinct difference in the lives of those who live in the light (*day*) and those who are blinded and without Christ (*night*) in this life. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:7-11**.

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 we left off last time we saw that **verse 7** contains further explanation on what Calvin called our “duty” as those who know Christ and have been brought out of darkness and into His marvelous light by the grace of God. Calvin says, “For this is spiritual sobriety, when we use this world so sparingly and temperately that we are not entangled with its allurements.” We are called to examine ourselves and understand the difference in allegiance of those who know Jesus and those who are lost. Both 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: *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 –As we continue in the text we are told that those of us “*who are of the day*” are to “*be sober*”. We saw this in greater detail last time where the instructions of the previous verses call us to not “*sleep as others do*.” We as genuine believers in Christ are to live in the light of our profession by not being ignorant and indifferent to the spiritual realities of life which surround us but rather to be alert and attentive and to “*watch*” as we look toward the return of Jesus. We are commanded to be sober a “calm, collected way of living which is temperate or dispassionate”. This does not mean we live without passion but rather that we are not controlled or ruled by our sinful passions. As Calvin comments, we are to live, “casting away the cares of the world, which weigh us down by their pressure, and throwing off base lusts, mount to heaven with freedom and alacrity.” We are to live with minds fixed on the eternal and not the

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITAL 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						

Matthew 6:9-13

temporal understanding that we live lives out in the “day” not indulging our secret sins under the cover of darkness and night. Read **Matthew 5:14-16, John 3:19-21, Colossians 3:1-2**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help us to live in the light of the day and cause our minds to be fixed on You and the eternal truths of Your Word.*

WEDNESDAY –We are next instructed in **verse 8** that we are to be properly attired if you will. We are told to be “*putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.*” We are reminded here of the Apostle’s instruction regarding the armor of God which is necessary to live victorious lives amidst the temptations of the flesh and this fallen world. This is a call to arms and a call to warfare not a life of ease and sleep waiting the cashing in of our 401k. To not be surprised by the enemy one must be on the lookout for him. As an old quote from my Army days said, “The more you sweat in peace the less you bleed in war.” This again is **not** a call for us to defeat sin and live in victory on and in our own strength but instead to be properly attired with the God given means that He supplies to us and to win the battle by His empowerment. We don’t win this battle by our merits, smarts, or cleverness but rather by being armed in and with the mighty weapons of our great God and Savior. Remember in this context we are being guarded against being surprised by “The Day of The Lord”. With both our “head and heart right” by union with Christ we can live prepared for the coming judgment and escape it by faith in the righteousness of Christ imputed to us by faith alone. Read **Ephesians 6:10-18, Romans 10:17, Revelation 12:11**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, thank You for the undeserved salvation You have granted me in Christ Jesus and help me to be prepared by being equipped as You have instructed me from Your Word.*

THURSDAY –I would like to add a bit more to the topic of yesterday by explaining that it is Christ alone who is our righteousness and only hope of deliverance. With that being said we read that true believers live this victorious life by wearing the armor and fighting the good fight of faith. Paul told Timothy that he had “*fought the good fight*”, which is to say that he fought against unbelief and was assured of final victory by trusting in Christ alone and His perfect death and life which is credited to him. I say he “fought for faith” from what Paul said later in that same verse where he defines the fight by saying, “*I have kept the faith*”. Paul was obedient and completely trusting in the revealed Word of God for his salvation and victory. It is ultimately a fight for faith. You and I are not capable of saving ourselves no matter how “good” we are at keeping some “checklist” of morality. We are saved by the alien righteousness (one that is outside of us) of Jesus Christ who took our sin upon Himself on the cross, crushed the enemy in His resurrection, and has clothed us with His perfect righteousness to stand before God in the day of judgment without shame; and we receive this salvation **by faith**. Read **2 Timothy 4:7-8, 1 Peter 1:3-5**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, thank You for the gift of faith and help me to cry out for continuing strength of it as the disciples did to Jesus. Thank You that it is ultimately You who keeps me safe and secure as Your child.*

FRIDAY –We see the truth of yesterday’s prayer in **verse 9** of our text. Here we are assured as God’s children that He “*did not appoint us to wrath*”. Paul used the same phrase in **chapter 1** and he is speaking here to the eternal wrath of God that will be experienced by those who have never been born again through faith in Christ Jesus. Notice again as the verse continues that our assurance of salvation lies in the fact that we “*obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ*”. How this hope is realized is by what Paul told us earlier when he said, “*putting on the helmet of the hope of salvation*”. We don’t “will” ourselves to deliverance but rather rest, hope, and trust in God to save us through the person and work of Jesus Christ in our behalf. Paul finishes **verse 10** by explaining that Jesus “*died for us, that whether we should wake or sleep, we should live with Him*”. I like how Calvin puts this when he says, “Paul, undoubtedly, does not mean that God has called us, that we may procure salvation for ourselves, but that we may obtain it, as it has been acquired for us by Christ. Paul, however, encourages believers to fight strenuously, setting before them the certainty of victory; for the man who fights timidly and hesitatingly is half-conquered. In these words, therefore, he had it in view to take away the dread which arises from distrust. There cannot, however, be a better assurance of salvation gathered, than from the decree of God.” Read **Ephesians 1:5-6, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Jesus, we worship You our perfect righteousness! Help me to fight courageously with the helmet of the hope of salvation on my head.*

SATURDAY –Paul then calls us to “*comfort each other and edify one another...*” (**vs. 11**) John Gill summarizes: “...with the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, the second coming of Christ, and the thoughts of being for ever with him, and one another,...that they were not in a state of darkness, ignorance, and infidelity, but were children of the light, and of the day, being called out of darkness into marvelous light, and should enjoy the light of life; and with the doctrine of predestination, they being appointed not to that wrath they were deserving of, but to be possessed of salvation by Jesus Christ, of which they could never fail, since the purpose of God according to election always stands sure, not upon the foot of works, but upon his own sovereign and unchangeable grace; ...with the doctrine of Christ’s sufferings and death, in their room and stead, whereby the law was fulfilled, justice satisfied, their sins atoned for, pardon procured, an everlasting righteousness brought in, and their salvation fully accomplished.”

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, All praise be to You!*