

1 Thessalonians Chapter 5

I. DESCRIPTION (v. 1-11)

1. The SIGN (v. 1-3)

- "But", change of subjects
- Times and seasons, no need to write to them
- Seasons, Gr. = a time which an opportunity foreordained arrives
- "Know perfectly", Paul emphasizes that they know all of this
- Day of the Lord, comes as a thief vs. a robber
 - Thief, Gr. **kleptes** = steals with fraud & in secret
 - Robber, open violence
 - John 10:1-8, False Shepherd stealing the flock
 - Explain "as" vs. "like"
 - As = in the role of something
 - Like = similar to something
 - The beast was LIKE a lion, etc.
- (v.3) When they say "peace and safety", sudden destruction
 - Sudden = unforeseen destruction
 - Paul likens it to labor pains, steps leading to the end result
 - Will not escape, Gr. emphatic future negative
 - No not able to flee
 - Matt 24:1-28, Jesus forewarns of coming calamity

2. Be SOBER (v. 4-8)

- Not in darkness, don't succumb to the Day of the Lord
- (v. 5) "Children of light"
- Eph 5:1-12, Paul contrasts light vs. dark
- (v. 6) Watch and be sober, don't be like everyone else
 - Awake, diligent, sober = clear mind, clear thinking
 - Not the idea of the drinking alcohol
 - More the idea of refraining from the abuse of it

- Idea carries over to v.7-8
 - Ephesians 6, standing firm as witnesses, with armor of God
 - Standing against temptations of darkness

3. Enjoy SALVATION (v. 9-11)

- Not **appointed** to wrath, Gr. = to set in place, lay down
- **Wrath**, Gr. = anger as a state of mind, perpetual and subject to outburst
- Obtain salvation, to have as it was purchased for us
- Awake or asleep, live for the Lord
- (v. 11) Comfort and edify each other
 - **Edify**, Gr. root = build a house
 - To build up each other in Christ
 - Firm foundation

II. DISCIPLINE (v. 12-13)

- "Urge you", recognition of co-laborers, working together in order
- Admonish, Gr. = to warn, exhort
- Carries this idea in the positive & negative, (v.12, 14), 2 Thess 3:14-15
- (v.13) Be at peace, positive outlook, side-by-side for common good

III. DIVISION (v. 14-15)

- "Exhort and warn", admonish
- Flips the narrative to negative issues
- The **unruly**, Gr. = disorderly, out of order
- Paul contrasts between those working for good vs. those in disobedience
- (v. 14) Comfort the fainthearted, feebleminded
- Gr. = those of small minds, souls, easily upset
- Uphold the weak and powerless
- In the end, patient/long-suffering to all
- (v. 15) Pursue good things, the right thing to do
- Rise above your condition and don't be spiteful

IV. DIRECTION (v. 16-22)

1. DO
 - A. REJOICE
 - Always
 - B. PRAY
 - Unceasingly
 - 1 Thess 1:3, remembering their work of faith
 - 1 Thess 2:13, constant thanksgiving for them
 - C. GIVE THANKS
 - In everything
 - A 3-step process to a right heart with God
 - The will of God
 - E. TEST (all) and HOLD (to good)
 - "Hold", same word as the Restrainer holds
 - Discard error and bad things
 - F. ABSTAIN
 - From evil, every form and appearance
2. DON'T
 - A. QUENCH the SPIRIT
 - Do not attempt to extinguish the Spirit of God
 - B. DESPISE PROPHECIES
 - Lit., to bring to nothing, invalidate

V. DEDICATION (v. 23-28)

1. God of PEACE
 - A state of tranquility, peacefulness
 - To sanctify completely, Gr. = idea of holistic, completed person
 - Spirit, soul, body all together
 - Preserved blameless
 - Idea of a warden/guard keeping eyes on someone

2. God of PROMISE

- Faithful God who called you
- Phil 1:6 "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ"
- THE called ones
 - Called to be preserved in the last day
 - Contrast Rom 8:28-30, "the called", Gr. root from v. 24
 - Called to a purpose, many are called and few will answer
 - Rev 3:20