

1 Thessalonians 5

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 – Encouragement about the Second Coming of Jesus

V1 – Most people are concerned about the end of the world and the Second Coming of Jesus – There is much speculation today on this subject (*Left Behind* novels, etc.)

-**In what sense was Paul complimenting them here?** They already knew the truth on this subject

-So whatever Paul said would just be a review (a very diplomatic approach)

V2 – **What kind of warning would the Second Coming have?** None – like a thief in the night

-**Where did Jesus speak in these same terms?** Read **Matthew 24:42-44**

-**What will be happening at the Second Coming of Jesus?** Life as usual

-**Why do people keep trying to set a date for the Second Coming of Jesus?**

Money, fame, sensationalism, etc.

V3 – **What would be the attitude of the people when the Lord returns?** Peace and safety, everything is going OK, no problems to worry about, no reason for panic

-**How would the Second Coming occur?** Very swiftly

-**Examples?** A woman giving birth (very fast once it gets started)

V4 – **But what was the attitude the Thessalonians had?** They knew about the Second Coming - it would not be a total surprise

V5 – **What was Paul's compliment about the Christians at Thessalonica?** They were children of light and the day

V6 – **What attitude did Paul say they all needed?** Not to sleep, but to be alert and be sober

V7 – **When do evil people do their wicked deeds?** Usually at night (including getting drunk)

V8 – **What is the difference therefore between Christians and the people of the world?** We are of the day, not the night

-**What two parts of the Christian armor did Paul mention here?** Breastplate of faith and love, helmet of hope and salvation

-**Where do we find all the pieces of Christian armor?** *Ephesians 6:13-17*

V9 – We are not destined for hell

-**What is our destination?** Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ

V10 – We will live with Him

V11 – **What was the purpose of Paul's going over these things?** To encourage and build up the Thessalonians

- Paul's message in these 11 verses?** That the Second Coming could occur at anytime (no signs)
- How would Paul's message in v 1-11 encourage Christians?** Not to be frightened of the Second Coming

1 Thessalonians 5.12-22 – Comments on work and labor

V 12 – **Who needed special appreciation at Thessalonica?** Those who diligently labored over them (elders, deacons, preachers)

- Why did Paul use the word “labor”?** This may be another reference to the way some of them had given up their jobs to wait for the Second Coming

V 13 – **What else was to be done for those who worked with the congregation?** To be esteemed highly

- Notice the use of the word “*labor*” in v 13
- What else did Paul tell the congregation to do?** Live in peace with one another

V 14 – **What was to be done with the unruly?** To be admonished

- “*Unruly*” was a military term in Greek, people out of step and out of line, including poor attendance
- Some of us were in the marching band in high school, and we remember the importance of staying in lines (it is not easy to do)
- What was to be done with the fainthearted?** To be encouraged
- So the Thessalonians were not nearly so confused as the Corinthian were
- How did Paul describe these who had died?** Asleep (See *2 Corinthians 15:51*)
- What was to be done with the weak?** To be helped with much patience
- Finally: *Be patient with everyone...*

V 15 – **What were the Thessalonians to do when they were mistreated?** Repay evil with good

V 16 – Rejoice always

V 17 – **How can we pray without ceasing?** Always be on praying terms with God

V 18 – We are to give thanks

V 19 – **How can we quench the Spirit?** By being critical of others who are doing the best they can do

- We can be critical of people and thus not allow them to grow in the church
- Sometimes our young men, for example, lead the singing and can be criticized, but let us encourage them in their efforts (the same with all new converts)
- We allow young ladies to help in teaching classes and to learn how to do it
- This writer remembers a visitor at a service where we were members at the time
- The preacher preached a sermon on Joseph (Old Testament) and pointed out that Joseph shaved himself before he went in to see Pharaoh (*Gen. 41.14*)
- The preacher then said that it is a sin to have a beard – the man (who had a beard)

never came back

-At another congregation, a preacher spoke on why it was a sin to wear blue jeans to church

-One young couple was visiting (wearing blue jeans) and never came back – a very, very sad case

-We are to encourage one another, not go beyond the Bible and chase away the visitors and new members - **Read Matthew 12:20**

V 20 – The Thessalonians were to listen to those with the gift of prophecy

-**Why?** Because those with the gift of prophecy would not mention the Second Coming as taking place in the next few weeks

V 21 – **What was to be their attitude (concerning doctrine)?** Look at everything carefully (as the Bereans did – *Acts 17:11*)

V 22 – They were not to dabble in evil things

1 Thessalonians 5.23-28 – Benediction (final blessing on the church there)

V 23 – **Why are they to be without blame at the Second Coming of Jesus?** True to the word of God

-Notice use of “spirit” and “soul” – a very fine line there – See *Hebrews 4:12*

V 24 – **What was the promise of God?** That the Second Coming would occur

V 25 – Interesting that Paul asked Christians to pray for him (such a great apostle)

-**Read Ephesians 6:19**

V 26 – **How were they to greet each other?** With a holy kiss, not a romantic kiss

V 27 – **What did Paul ask?** That the letter be read to all the church

-**Why would Paul want the letter read to the church?** Maybe some members could not read (for example, slaves)

V 28 – Farewell – a very warm, personal closing to this letter

Revised 2013-01-26