

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for January 18-19, 1997

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"Don't Walk in Your Sleep"

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Those who have trusted in Christ as God's children are united in Christ (Galatians 3:28).

Christ not only unites, He also divides (John 7:43; 10:17-19).

His purpose in these verses is to encourage believers to live holy lives in the midst of our surroundings. He does this by pointing out the contrasts between believers and unbelievers.

Knowledge and ignorance

"TIMES AND THE EPOCHS" - "Times" (CHRONOI) emphasizes time in respect to the day and the hour. "Epochs" (KAIROI) emphasizes events that will happen in respect to time.

"THE DAY OF THE LORD" (Isaiah 2:12; 13:6,9; Ezek. 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18 (twice), 20; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7, 14 (twice); Zechariah 14:1; Malachi 4:5; Acts 2:20; here in 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:2; 2 Peter 3:10)

"A THIEF IN THE NIGHT" - Describes the suddenness and the surprise involved in the coming of the Day of the Lord.

Expectancy and Surprise (1 Thessalonians 5:3-5)

The world consistently believes that all is well even when God's true messengers are warning them of judgment (Jeremiah 6:13, 14; 8:10,11; Micah 3:5).

When the church is raptured (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) the world goes into "labor" or "birth pangs" (1 Thessalonians 5:3). The world will be in "labor" for seven years which is the length of the tribulation.

At the end of the tribulation the Lord will return in "power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30). This will be followed by Christ's judgment of the nation of Israel (Matthew 25:1-30) and then the gentiles (Matthew 25:31-46). This will make it possible for only the righteous to enter the millennial kingdom.

Though the world is surprised by the "Day of the Lord," Christians are "sons of the light" and therefore are not "in the dark" when it comes to future events.

Soberness and drunkenness (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8)

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The day of the Lord is approaching, it is time to wake up, clean up, and dress up with the "breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation."

Salvation and judgment (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)

Believers do not have to fear a future outpouring of wrath because it is not part of God's appointed plan for us.

Either in hell (Romans 9:22)

Either in the "day of the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 5:9; compare Zephaniah 1:14-18)

Or in the "tribulation" (Matthew 24:19-22; compare