

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 36
I Thessalonians 5

“The Way the Christian Is to Live
During the Days Immediately Prior to Our Lord’s Return”

INTRODUCTION: When the Apostle Paul began the church at Thessalonica, he especially stressed to them the doctrine of our Lord’s return. They delighted in this blessed truth. They began to look for His appearing in the air. Then suddenly something unexpected happened. One of their members died. They had not accounted for this. Hence, they wrote the Apostle Paul asking him what would happen to this departed saint. Basically the book of I Thessalonians is designed to teach of our Lord’s return. It ends with chapter 5, which admonishes the Christians how they should act and behave in the closing days of the age. Let us notice its teaching.

- I. JESUS WILL COME AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT. I Thessalonians 5:2. This means that His coming will be a surprise to those who are unsaved. Those who walk in darkness will not expect His coming, and He will come at a time when they expect Him not.

There are those, however, who teach that the Christian cannot know anything about the time of the coming of our Lord, but a careful examination of I Thessalonians 5:2, 4 refutes this teaching. You will notice that the Scripture says that though the Lord will come as a thief in the night, we who are saved are not of the night and that day should not overtake us as a thief. If a thief comes in the nighttime, he cannot be seen. However, when a thief comes in the daytime, if one is looking for him and watching for him, his coming can be seen. There are three types of people in the world, as pertains to our Lord’s return:

1. Those who are in darkness and will be surprised at His coming.
2. Those who are in the light but are not looking for Him and will be surprised at His coming.
3. Those who are in the light and are watching for Him and will not be surprised at His coming.

- II. THE COMING OF THE LORD IS LIKENED TO AN EXPECTANT MOTHER. I Thessalonians 5:3. A woman who is expecting a baby does not know the day nor the hour when the baby will be born. She does, however, know the approximate time. She can know that it is somewhere in the neighborhood of nine months. We cannot know the day nor the hour of our Lord’s return, but we can see evidence of His soon coming, and we should live accordingly.

- III. THE CHRISTIAN WHO LOOKS FOR THE LORD’S RETURN SHOULD DO MANY THINGS. I John 3:3 tells us that the person who is looking for the Lord’s return purifies himself so as not to be ashamed at the rapture. Let us notice the things I Thessalonians 5 tells us to do, especially in these days.

1. We are not to sleep. Verse 6.
2. We are to be sober. Verses 6b and 8a.
3. We are to have faith. Verse 8.
4. We are to love. Verse 8.
5. We are to comfort one another. Verse 11a.
6. We are to edify (build up) one another. Verse 11b.
7. We are to be properly related to the pastor. Verse 12. (Also notice Hebrews 13:7, 17.)
8. We are to respect and esteem the pastors. Verse 13a.
9. We are to live at peace with each other. Verse 13b.
10. We are to warn the sinful. Verse 14a.
11. We are to comfort the feebleminded. Verse 14b.
12. We are to support the weak. Verse 14c.
13. We are to have patience. Verse 14d.
14. We are not to retaliate. Verse 15.
15. We are to rejoice. Verse 16.
16. We are to be in the spirit of prayer constantly. Verse 17.
17. We are to give thanks in everything. Verse 18.
18. We are to obey and follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Verse 19.
19. We are to love prophecy. Verse 20.

20. We are to do that which is good. Verse 21.
21. We are not even to be in bad company, run with the wrong crowd or be around that which appears to be evil. Verse 22.

CONCLUSION: Above are the things that the Christian is supposed to do all the time, but especially is he to do these things in the light of the blessed fact that Jesus may come any minute.