



## This Day - That Day

By Jeff Bedwell on March 23, 2021

**TODAY'S READING:** 1 Thessalonians 4

The writer of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, wrote about the futility of life that was lived "under the sun," with no perspective of eternity in mind. In this section of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, he reminds them to live "this day" in light of "that day," when *"the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord"* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, ESV).

In light of eternity and God's gracious provision for us in Jesus Christ, Paul encourages them to continue to live a life pleasing to God. Having already instructed them in their walk with the Lord (vs. 2), Paul reminds them of their calling to:

- Walk in holiness - specifically avoiding sexual immorality (1-8).
- Walk in brotherly love (9-10) - Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35, ESV).
- Walk properly before outsiders - working hard with a quietness of heart and mind, avoiding meddlesomeness and idleness (11-12).

Living this way pleases God, blesses us, and best prepares us for the day of the Lord's coming. It is also a powerful testimony to those who do not yet know Christ. In a culture that at times seems to be increasingly disdainful and distrustful of Christianity, people will not be overly impressed by our words but may be powerfully impacted by the distinctiveness of our lives.

How will you live today in light of "that day" when Christ returns to take us to "be with the Lord"? What really matters most when you have eternity in mind? How will the way that you live your life today impact the people around you who may not yet know Christ?

**PRAYER:** "Father, thank You for the hope that we have in Christ Jesus that even as we face death we do not "grieve as those who have no hope." Help me live my life today with eternity

in mind, seeking to please You, love others and positively impact the lives of those around me."

**TOMORROW'S READING:** 1 Thessalonians 5

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