

## Enduring Hope in Jesus' Coming 1Thessalonians 5

**\*\*\*Before you start, please spend time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you dig deeply in the passage. You *many not get all of the questions which is just fine*. Also, feel free to ask your own questions**

**Icebreaker: What have you looked forward to at various times of your life?**

Questions: **Ob**= observation questions **Int**= interpretive questions **App**= application questions  
(*application questions can be very personal so please only share as you feel comfortable*)

*Verses 4:13-5:11 are actually one section. Please read this section as one.*

Ok... **we know and all agree that Jesus is coming again- suddenly, physically and triumphantly** (again we know there is much more to study about this topic but will let you do that on your own ) and the Thessalonians didn't need to be concerned about their loved ones that have gone on before them... soo now...when will this actually happen? Paul notes a new section with his NOW but he is still on the general topic.

**1. V1- 2** OB What is Paul's answer to the "when" question? Int- Why do you think they wanted to know? Matt 24:36

2. Int- Paul had obviously done previous teaching on the subject. What would be the "day of the Lord"? See 2 Peter 3:10 (or all of chapter 3) ; Acts 2:17-21 (quoted from Joel 2:30-21) <https://www.gotquestions.org/day-of-the-Lord>.

3. Int- Paul is using the words of Jesus Matthew 24:35-51. What comes to mind when you think of a thief coming to steal from you? Why would Jesus use that illustration? App- How would we prepare if we knew a thief was coming? Rev. 3:1-3

4. Int-What do you think he means by times and seasons? Jesus- Acts 1:6-11, Daniel 2:21 *The Thessalonians were worried about the delay... in their minds. They were getting distracted by focusing so much on this that some had even stopped working. 2 Thess 3:6-12.*

**5. V3** Ob What are people saying to each other? See Luke 17:26-30 How does Paul describe this sudden destruction? See Isaiah 13:8, Ezekiel 13:10. Any thoughts on the use of labor pains?

6. Int- Who are the people in verse 3? Ephesians 4:17-19 (gentiles), John 8: 39-47 (Jews) , What will they not escape? Jeremiah 6:14-15?

**7.V 4-5** Ob- BUT... so who are the YOU ?

8. Int- Why won't believers be surprised? Colossians 1:13, John 8:12

**9. V 6-7** Ob- Who is the “us” and who are the “others”? What are the “us” to do?

10. Int Paul used sleep in chapter 4 to be a temporary time of our bodies in death? What do you think he means by sleep here in verse 6? Romans 13:11-12

11. Int What are other words for awake and sober (dictionary, translations)?

12. App- How are attitudes and behaviour of those of us who are of the light to be different from those who belong to the dark? Are we “sleepy” or “in our pjamas”?

13. V8 Ob What three words is Paul repeating here from 1 Thess 1:3?

*Paul pictured the Christian life in military terms as being a life of soberness (alertness) and proper equipping. The “breastplate” covers the vital organs of the body. “Faith” is an essential protection against temptations, because it is trust in God’s promise, plan, and truth. It is unwavering belief in God’s word that protects us from temptation’s arrows. Looking at it negatively, it is unbelief that characterizes all sin. When believers sin, they have believed Satan’s lie. Love for God is essential, as perfect love for him yields perfect obedience to him. Elsewhere the warrior’s breastplate has been used to represent righteousness (Isa. 59:17; Eph. 6:14). Faith elsewhere is represented by a soldier’s shield (Eph. 6:16). The “helmet” is always associated with salvation in its future aspects (cf. Isa. 59:17; Eph. 6:17). Our future salvation is guaranteed, nothing can take it away (Rom. 13:11). John MacArthur*

**14. V9-10** Ob Why do we have the hope of salvation? What are other words for “obtain”?

15. Int Why are we not destined for wrath? **Romans 5:6-11**, (but what are we destined for 3:3)

The wrath of God is a fearsome and terrifying thing. Only those who have been covered by the blood of Christ, shed for us on the cross, can be assured that God’s wrath will never fall on them. JI Packer

16. Int What is meant by “awake” or “asleep” in this verse?

**17. V 11** App- How can we encourage and build up **each other (we are never alone)** knowing we have this great hope in our salvation in Christ? Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you **see the Day approaching**”

18. App- How can we prepare for Jesus' return? Luke 19:11-27, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Matt 28:19-20, Mark 13:32-33, Titus 2:11-13, Rev. 16:15 Are we looking forward to Christ's return? (review from chapter 4)

**19. V 12-13** -Ob Who are the labourers Paul is referring to? What do they do? Acts 20:17, 28-30, 1 Peter 5:2, 2 Tim.2:15, Titus 1:5-16, James 5:14

20. Int- What are we to do? What do those words mean (dictionary or translations) Why are we to do this? What happens when we do this? Hint R\_\_\_\_\_ and E\_\_\_\_\_

21. App- How can we make our elders' work among us sweeter and edifying so we will have peace in the body? (v25)

**22. V 14-22** ( Paul is speaking to us- the body of believers) To have this **peace** within and with fellow believers... Paul gives us this list of imperatives or what we are to do as a body of believers. We do these commands because of the love we have for Christ and His Church and in gratitude for His saving us for eternity.

**List them here and then each take 3 or 4 to study more to share with the rest of your group (use other translations, look up the words, go to a study Bible or a commentary, use Blue letter Bible online, listen to sermons, or seek out other material you may have) this is your turn to dig deep on your own.**

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12. Test everything- see below

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**23. V 18-** We all desire to know God's will in our lives. I recommend this short sermon highly on how we can know God's will for our lives. <https://renewingyourmind.org/2023/01/28/the-will-of-god>

**24. V21** How do we test everything: John Stott: 1) truth in scripture (Acts 17:11), 2) nature of Christ (1 John 4:1-3, 2 John 9-10) 3) gospel of grace (Gal 1:6-9) 4) character of speaker (Matt 7:15-20) 5) for the sake of the body (edifying) 1 Cor 14

**25. V 23-24 Ob Paul's blessing to the church** How does Paul begin his letter 1:1 and end his letter?

26. Ob Who sanctifies us? When will we be blameless? (From lesson 4 -gotquestions.org/progressive-sanctification.)

27. Int What does it mean to be kept? Who keeps us? -other translations for the word "kept" How can we even be blameless? 1 Cor.2:4-5, Eph 3:20-21

28. App- How sure are you that you will be found blameless? Why do you know this or why don't you know this?

29. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 ESV Study Bible

*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Prayer, Assurance, and Conclusion. Just as the first half of the letter ended with a pastoral prayer that the Thessalonians be marked by holiness at the second coming of Christ (1 Thess. 3:11-13), this half does too. However, here Paul adds reassurance (1 Thess. 5:24). God of peace. God initiated the reconciliation of Christians with himself and is now at peace with them. Spirit, soul, and body represent the entirety of human nature. It seems unlikely that this is a tripartite division of human nature into body, soul, and

spirit, where “spirit” and “soul” would refer to different parts; more likely Paul is simply using several terms for emphasis. For similar ways of expressing the totality of human nature see Matt. 10:28; Mark 12:30; 1 Cor. 7:34. There is no need for the Thessalonians to worry about whether they will be sufficiently holy and blameless at the coming of the Lord. **God is faithful, and he will surely make it happen.**

### **30. V 24 What a glorious promise!! Isaiah 25:1, 8-9, Deut 7:6-12, 2 Tim 2:13, I John 1:9**

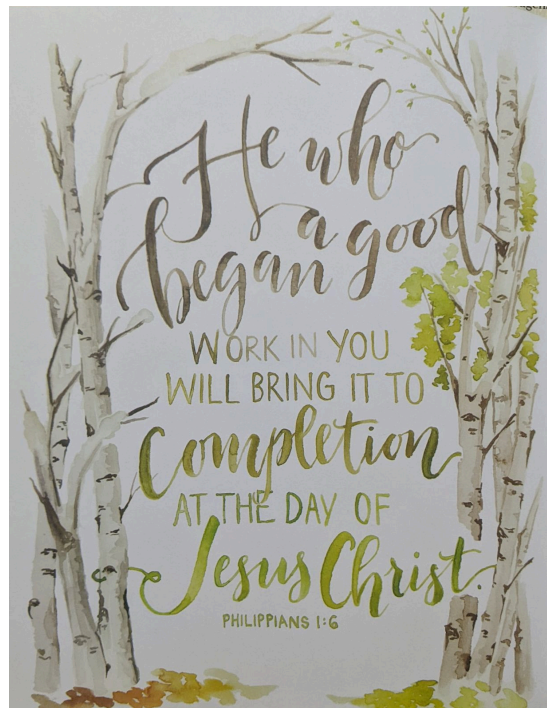
Spurgeon says: “Faith is believing that Christ is what He is said to be, and that He will do what He has promised to do, and then to expect this of Him.”

### **31. V 25 -28 Ob/Int - What is Paul asking for and how important is that for him? What could be a reason for a “kiss”?**

Well, dear sisters, we have completed our study of this short but oh so rich of a book. What a blessing this has been for us as women of the Word and sisters in Christ. I look forward to meeting these Thessalonians in heaven.

I pray that this time is the Word has been glorious as you spent time studying, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in understanding and then in doing and sharing what you have learned. It is a journey with ALL the ups and downs we will have until Jesus comes again to take us HOME!!!

**Grace and Peace to you all Come Lord Jesus Come!!!!**



Thank you, Jodene for this!