

1 Thessalonians Bible Study
Fall 2022
Lesson 5 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11
(week of October 9)
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Verse to remember - 1 Thessalonians 5:8

“But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of ***faith*** and ***love***,
and for a helmet the ***hope*** of salvation.”

Gathering

Opening prayer

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11.

1. Reading between the lines of 4:13-15, what does it seem has happened in the Thessalonian church?

2. What is the basis of our confidence that the dead as well as the living are secure and have hope for the future (4:14a)?

3. 4:16-18 are probably not a play-by-play of Jesus’ return, but a poetic and symbolic account of it, based on Old Testament imagery. What do Daniel 7:13-14 and Psalm 47 contribute to your understanding of the meaning of these verses?

4. 4:17 is the basis for the so-called “rapture” - when believers will be snatched (“caught up”) out of their earthly lives and go to be with the Lord, while unbelievers are “left behind.” However, what does Matthew 24:37-42 indicate about who will be taken and who will be left?

5. “Therefore, encourage one another with these words” (4:18). What do you personally find encouraging about 4:13-17?

6. What impression does the Old Testament give about “the day of the Lord?”
Joel 2:1-3

Amos 5:18-20

Zephaniah 1:14-18

7. Why should you not fear the day of the Lord (5:9)?

8. What does it mean to be sober and awake and children of the day (5:4-8)? What are some practical ways that you can be these things during the coming week? (See Ephesians 5:8-20 for ideas.)

9. The breastplate and helmet were defensive weapons (5:8). How do faith, love, and hope protect you?

10. “Eschatology” is the study of the last things (the end of the world as we know it). What has your faith tradition/background taught you about eschatology?

11. What are your fears and wonderings about death, resurrection, and the second coming of Jesus?

12. Questions for personal application.

What truth does this passage teach you?

What is God saying to you in this passage?

What difference does it make in your life?

How will you respond in obedience?

Closing prayer