

**ARE YOU READY FOR HIS RETURN?**  
**(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)**

**I. Do not wonder (vs. 1-3).**

- A. There is much time spent in talking about the return of Christ and it is basically all idle speculation.
- B. Instead of wasting time talking about when He is going to return, we need to be readying ourselves for His return.
- C. These brethren had been taught about the return of Jesus and so Paul should not have had to write to them about the time of His return.
- D. They knew that when Jesus did come He would do so unannounced.
  - 1. This is the idea of the two illustrations given in this section.
  - 2. No thief calls you up a week ahead of time and announces that he will be there next Tuesday at ten.
  - 3. A mother knows that she is nearing her time of delivery but it is still sudden and shocking when those labor pains hit.
- E. Whenever the Lord does come is up to the Father and He knows.
- F. However, there will be people proclaiming safety for all when He does.
  - 1. Thus, it could be at any time because there have been people for many years saying that there is no return of the Lord that will ever take place.
  - 2. Even in Jeremiah's day there were prophets that promised peace when there was no peace.
  - 3. Peter warned of those who said that the Lord was not going to return and how foolish they were.
- G. Those people who say such have no chance of escaping the wrath of God that will come upon them for their heresy.
- H. There is no need to be wondering about the date of the return of Jesus because no one but God knows when that will be.

**II. Be watching (vs. 4-7).**

- A. Being watchful carries the idea of alertness.
  - 1. We should be on guard or at attention in our spiritual lives.
  - 2. The day that is coming is so important that we don't want to be found being unattentive to our lives when He returns.
- B. Christians are not in spiritual darkness.
  - 1. Christ is the Light of the world and we know this day is coming and we should be ready for it.
  - 2. Because of our watchfulness, we will not be caught unprepared like a thief catches those he robs.
- C. Since Christians are not in spiritual darkness they are referred to as the children of light and day.
  - 1. Also, some commentators think that day is a reference to the day of the Lord.
  - 2. They mean by this that the Christian is a child of that day because he is prepared for it and being watchful.
- D. There should not be a time in our spiritual lives that we are caught

slacking as the world is slacking.

1. We are to be people who are on guard and ready.
  2. We are to be people who handle our business discreetly, not drawing attention to ourselves, which is what sober means.
  3. The Christian lives in constant awareness that the Lord could return any moment and has his life ready because of it.
  4. He is not intoxicated on the goods and pleasures of the world, but longs for his heavenly home.
- E. It has always been the case that those who engage in sin do so, for the most part, during the night.
1. Darkness hides while the light of the gospel reveals.
  2. Those who are in sin do not want others to see them and know what they are truly like, thus they act at night.
  3. Sadly, today, many are bold with their sin and flaunt it for the world to see.
- F. Instead of wondering when, be watchful for the time.

### III. **Be wearing the proper attire (vs. 8-11).**

- A. Those who are of the day, ready for that day being sober, need to be wearing the attire of the gospel.
1. Ephesians 6 expounds upon this armor much more than do these verses.
  2. However, Paul wanted them to know of what the main part of the Christian armor consisted.
- B. The Christian who wants to be ready has prepared herself to be ready for the onslaught of the world.
1. Realizing she is in spiritual warfare, she prepares herself with armor of God.
  2. A soldier on guard duty does not relax but is on the alert and prepared with the proper equipment.
- C. The child of God is to be wearing the breastplate of faith and love.
1. Faith in God and love for Him and His children adorns the life of the prepared soldier of God.
  2. These are ever before the soldier of God and they are worn proudly for the world to see.
- D. The soldier of Christ also wears the helmet of salvation.
1. Men are saved by the gospel, which is found in the Bible.
  2. It being a helmet of salvation shows the importance of having God's word in our minds and ever before us in our thoughts.
- E. God has given this armor to His children because He does not want them to taste of His wrath.
1. He has provided it for all mankind if they will be obedient.
  2. God has never intended for man to be lost, but had given us all things we need to be saved.
- F. Notice that we are to obtain that salvation.
1. There is work to be done by the one who would obtain salvation.
  2. We are involved in the saving process.

3. God has given us the means to be saved, we have to follow the guidelines He has given in order to obtain that salvation.
- G. We obtain salvation through Jesus who died for us.
1. He died for all mankind (John 3:16).
  2. Thus everyone can be saved that wants to be.
- H. It doesn't matter if we are dead at His appearing or alive, we will live with Him throughout eternity.
- I. Because of these words, we should still use them as comfort and edification for one another.
1. We are to encourage and build up one another.
  2. This is part of being sober and watchful.