

FINISH STRONG

A Strong Finish Requires a Focused Trust
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Three important characteristics of the end times

The **'day of the Lord'** refers to a period of time, an **EPOCH**

vs. 1-2

- It refers to a **SERIES** of events occurring over a span of time
- It refers to the season when the Lord **REIGNS** over the earth
- It has been referred to as the **'GREAT & TERRIBLE'** day

This period of time will be launched **UNANNOUNCED** vs. 2-3

- Like a **'thief in the night'** – **UNKNOWN** and without warning
- The world will be thinking **'peace and safety'** – **MISREADING** the times
- The world will face **UNESCAPABLE** devastation

TWO groups of people are alive as the day arrives vs. 4-11

- **Believers, (we, you) who** are to be **OBSERVANT**
 - ▶ **'sons of LIGHT and sons of DAY'**
 - ▶ **'ALERT and sober'**
 - ▶ **'put on breastplate of FAITH & LOVE, helmet of HOPE'**
 - ▶ **'not destined you for wrath, but for SALVATION'**
- **Un-believers, (they, them) who** are **OBLIVIOUS**
 - ▶ **'Peace and safety'** – oblivious to the **SIGNS** of the times
 - ▶ **'of night, of darkness'** – oblivious to **SPIRITUAL** need
 - ▶ **'asleep at night, drunk at night'** – lifestyle of **SIN**
 - ▶ They are destined for **DESTRUCTION** and **WRATH**

Auburn Grace Community Church – October 4th, 2020

Life Group Discussion Questions – October 4, 2020

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 *Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.*

DISCOVER (read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

1. What “times” and “epochs” is Paul referring to? What does he mean by the “day of the Lord”?
2. Who are “they” and “them” in verse 3? Who will face destruction and not escape? How can you know this is a certainty?

EXPLORE

1. Why might God have planned the last days to come suddenly and unexpectedly rather than giving a clear warning first? What are the benefits of not knowing the exact times when these epochs begin or end?
2. Are there any warnings before a woman faces labor pains? What are “false labor pains”? How does the metaphor of false labor pains apply to the day of the Lord?
3. Re-read verse 8. Why does Paul use the imagery of armor both in Ephesians 6 and here?
4. What plans does God have for us? How does verse 9 tie-in with the rapture?

EXPERIENCE

1. What applications does Paul lay out for the Thessalonians? What can we learn from this? How can we be alert and sober in the coming year especially when our culture is living in “peace and safety”? What can we do to keep from becoming complacent? (see Daniel 5)
2. This passage can sound so condemning. Yet how can Paul's words be an encouragement to believers?
3. Christians are “all sons of light and sons of day.” We know the truth. In what ways can we use this knowledge to advance the Kingdom message since the time is short? What specifically will you obey in order to apply what you have learned?

PRAY

Thank God that because of Jesus' redeeming work we are not destined for wrath. Pray that we would not fall into complacency but that we would be diligent and alert; that we would be sensitive to spiritual realities and sober minded. Pray that in these unprecedented times, God would draw many to Himself and therefore, redeeming them from the consequences of their unbelief. Ask that God would show us how to be willing participants in His plan for these times.