

People Get Ready *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

Introduction

If you are like most people, you have probably hosted an event at your home that required you to prepare beforehand. Certain rooms needed to be cleaned. Problem areas addressed. Junk needed to be stored away. Doors needed to be locked. You get the picture...

We all know what it is like to prepare for company. To get our homes ready for the arrival of a guest. In similar manner, we are called to be ready for Jesus' arrival. When He returns to call us home to Himself. But one of the things about Jesus' arrival is that we do not set the date. Unlike the events that we host at our homes, we don't get to send an invitation for Jesus' arrival.

So, that means we cannot wait until the last minutes to "clean up our rooms, address our problem areas, rid ourselves of the junk, and lock away the areas that we are ashamed of." We have to be ready for His return. So, I ask, are you ready? Are you prepared for the return of Jesus?

In this morning's passage, the apostle Paul deals with this year question...

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Exposition

I. The Details of Jesus' Return are Unknown (Vss. 1-3)

Day of the Lord – OT Roots (A Day of Vindication and Judgment)

Believers are aware of Jesus' return. Unbelievers are not aware, but instead, put their hope in the false security and peace of the World.

II. The Certainty of Jesus' Return is Known by Believers (Vss. 4-8)

Note the comparison between the Believer (Children of the Day/Light) and the Unbeliever (Children of the Night/Darkness)

Light and Darkness represent both moral and mental realities. Believers are morally and mentally aware of Jesus' return. Unbelievers, however, do not know or acknowledge the Day of the Lord that is coming for all the world.

Conclusion (Vss. 9-11)

Because believers know that Jesus will return, they prepare and ready ourselves for the day of the Lord by being sober-minded and alert, looking forward to the day. Are you ready for the Day of the Lord? Are you longing for the appearing of our God?

The apostle Paul wrote to ready his churches for the return of Jesus. He wrote to remind them that this world was not their home. He wrote to make sure that they did not get too comfortable while they were patiently waiting. Does your life reflect this heavenly perspective? Can you, with Paul's audience, say, "I'm ready?" Do you believe that God has "not destined you for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ?"

If you can answer, "yes," to these questions, then there are two things that you must do today:

- 1) Resolve to be Ready for the Lord's Return
- 2) Encourage Fellow Believers with this Truth

But you say, "Well, I'm not sure if I'm a believer. I'm not sure if I am ready for Jesus to return." What do I do?