

Be Ready. Be Ready. Be Ready.

December 5, 2021

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Those who have trusted in Jesus Christ are _____ as the children of God.

*"So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
(Galatians 3:26-28)*

*"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever."
(I Thessalonians 4:16-17)*

*"They are not of the world, even as I am not of it."
(John 17:16)*

There are contrasts between believers and unbelievers.

1. People operate in either _____ or ignorance.

*"Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."
(I Thessalonians 5:1-2)*

A. "Times and Dates" – This refers primarily to God's _____ for Israel.

*"Then they gathered around him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.'
(Acts 1:6-7)*

God has a plan for the Nations – Acts 17:25-26

*"And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands."
(Acts 17:25-26)*

B. The day of the Lord - This refers to that time when God will judge the _____ and deal with the nations. (I Thessalonians 5:2)

C. Thief in the night

2. We are in a world of _____ and surprise.

*"While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness."
(I Thessalonians 5:3-5)*

*""Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory."
(Matthew 24:30)*

*"They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'"
(Acts 1:10-11)*

*"And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming."
(I John 2:28)*

3. We live in a world of soberness and _____.

"So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at

night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet."
(I Thessalonians 5:6-8)

"The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy." (Romans 13:12-13)

We can hear the tragic news of today, yet do not lose _____.

"We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."
(I John 5:9-13)

4. We live in a world of _____ and judgement.

Reasons to believe in the rapture of the church:

A. The very nature of the _____.

"And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy." (Colossians 1:18)

B. The nature of the _____.

"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth."
(Revelation 3:10)

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ," (Philippians 3:20)

C. The promise of Jesus Christ's _____ return.

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."
(I John 4:9)

"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
(I Thessalonians 5:9-11)

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."" (Romans 10:13)

Notes: _____

