

# **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

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- 1. BE READY** - The Day of the Lord shall come suddenly and unexpectedly upon everyone. (5:1-3)
- 2. BE SONS OF LIGHT** - The Day of the Lord should not catch the believer unexpectedly and unprepared. (5:4-7)
- 3. WEAR THE ARMOR OF GOD** - Christians are to be sober, having a mind carefully guarded at all times. (5:8-11)

# 1. How will the Lord return?

## 1 Thess. 5:1-2

1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

2 For you yourselves know full well that **the day of the Lord** **will come just like a thief in the night.**

# 1. How will the Lord return?

## **Joel 2:31**

**31** “The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

## **Obadiah 1:15**

**15** “For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head.

## **Malachi 4:5**

**5** “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.

# 1. How will the Lord return?

## 1 Cor. 15:23-28

**23** But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

**24** then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

**25** For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

**26** The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

**27** For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

**28** When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

# 1. How will the Lord return?

## Phil. 1:9-10

**9** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,

**10** so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

## 2 Peter 3:10

**10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

# **1. How will the Lord return?**

- 1. “The Day of the Lord” is a period of time in which God will deal with wicked men in fearful judgment.**
- 2. It will be a day of catastrophic destruction.**
- 3. Faithful Christians will not be recipients of God’s wrath. They will receive salvation and eternal life in heaven.**

## **2. What contrast is there between believers and non-believers?**

### **1 Thess. 5:3-7**

**3** While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

**4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

**5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

**6** so then let us not sleep as others do but let us be alert and sober.

**7** For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.



**2. What contrast is there between believers and non-believers?**

## **Believers**

**“Sons of light and sons of day”**

**Do not be caught sleeping**

**Be alert**

**Be sober**

**Watching and waiting**

## **Non-believers**

**They are in the darkness.**

**“Peace and safety” They live in the moment.**

**“Like labor pains upon a woman with child”, they will not escape.**

**(Mark13:1-8)**

## 2. What contrast is there between believers and non-believers?

### Mark 13:1-8

1 As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples \*said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”

2 And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,

4 “Tell us, when will these things be, and what *will be* the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”

5 And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.

6 “Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am *He!*’ and will mislead many.

7 “When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; *those things* must take place; but *that is* not yet the end.

8 “For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will *also* be famines. These things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

3. How can Christians prepare for the Lord's return?  
**1 Thess. 5:8**  
8 But since we are of *the* day, let us **be sober**, having put on the **breastplate of faith and love**, and as a helmet, the **hope of salvation**.

**3. How can Christians prepare for the Lord's return?**

**A. **Be sober** – Be serious minded and prepare yourself for Satan's attack.**

**B. **Wear the Spiritual armor of God** – Faith, Love and Hope.**

**1. Faith provides protection against temptation.**

**2. Love God because He cares for us.**

**3. Hope in eternal life in heaven that God has promised to faithful Christians.**

### 3. How can Christians prepare for the Lord's return?

#### John 13:34-35

**34** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

**35** “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### **3. How can Christians prepare for the Lord's return?**

#### **Rom. 5:5-8**

**5** and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

**6** For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

**7** For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

**8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

### 3. How can Christians prepare for the Lord's return?

Eph. 6:13-17

13 Therefore, take up the **full armor of God**, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand firm**.

14 Stand firm therefore, having **girded your loins with truth**, and having **put on the breastplate of righteousness**,

15 and having **shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace**;

16 in addition to all, **taking up the shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

17 And take **the helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

# 4. To what does God appoint believers?

1 Thess. 5:9-11

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.



4. To what does God appoint believers?

**Salvation** - This is possible with Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

**Encourage one another and build up one another** – Christians are to comfort and edify others.

**5. How should Christians use these verses to help others?**

- 1. Christians are to be faithful.**
- 2. Christians are to live righteously.**
- 3. Worship God and keep His commandments.**
- 4. Love others.**
- 5. Pray for all people.**
- 6. Serve all people.**

6. How can the concepts of hope and encouragement contribute to your spiritual growth in challenging times?

The **hope** that I have in my salvation through the blood of Christ will make me a better student of God's word.

The **encouragement** I display to others during challenging times will strengthen their faith. Non-believers, seeing my confidence in God's faithfulness, will prompt them to ask questions.