

## Study Notes for 1 Thessalonians 5 (Part 1) :1-11

- What does 5:1-2 indicate about how thorough Paul had been in his original instructions about "the day of the Lord" to the Thessalonians?
- Even though Paul had already told the Thessalonians that Jesus would come like "a thief in the night," they still evidently wanted to know when it would happen. Why do you suppose people want so much to predict a date for Christ's return?
- What does Jesus say in **Matthew 24:36** about forecasting dates for His return?
- Take note of the pronouns in the first 4 verses. (You, they, them) Who is the "you" Paul is referring to? Who are the "they" and "them"?
- How does the Apostle Paul characterize the attitude of the people just before the Day of the Lord? (:3)
- Why do you think they are saying "peace and safety" (:3) when danger is so near?
- What does Paul say will happen to "them"?
- Paul compares the coming destruction to sudden labor pains. What does that image evoke for you? What does it say about the destruction?
- In 5:4, Paul switches the pronouns back to "you" to draw a contrast with "them." Read Col. 1:13-14. Why are believers not in darkness?
- What does it mean to be a "son of the light"?
- The word "sleep" in 5:6 is a different word than that used three times in 4:13-15 (where "sleep" carries the meaning of "death"). This word refers to "spiritual lethargy and insensitivity." Why is that a fitting picture of unbelievers?
- According to 1 Thes. 5:4-8, how does a person who belongs to the light think and behave?
- The breastplate and the helmet were probably the most important items in a soldier's suit of armor because they protected the most important organs. What does this imagery tell you about the importance of faith, love, and hope in Paul's thinking (5:8)?
- In what ways are faith, love, and hope protective gear in these challenging times before the Day of the Lord? Give an example of how they protect us.
- How do you feel about the reminder that the people of this world are destined for "wrath" (5:9)?
- The verbs "encourage" and "build up" (5:11) indicate a continuous, habitual action. These are to be done perpetually. Why do you think Paul considers the continual encouragement and upbuilding of believers so important to our spiritual growth and survival?
- What can you do this week to encourage and build up a fellow believer in Christ?