

Sermon Title: The Picture of a Consistent Anticipation

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, 11

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a consistent comforting anticipation of the Day of the Lord.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 observations related to the Day of the Lord that provide comfort and encouragement for the believer.

Introduction: We are living in a day where sin, Christ, the Gospel and true Christians are mocked, maligned and marginalized. We live in a day where sin and satanic activity is winked at, marched for, and voted in. Is there ever a time or a point in history where all this injustice toward God will end? Yes! “The Day of the Lord.” This is that eschatological event when the Lord Jesus Christ comes to judge the inhabitants of the earth and to pour out his wrath because of sin.

The teaching on final day events is absolutely crucial and necessary in order to encourage and comfort Christians in their daily life and conduct. Clear and correct thinking about the end is designed to help Christians to live with confidence in their present age.

In the following verses Christians are reminded that they cannot know when this great event will occur but that they should be prepared and anticipating this event at all times.

The Flood, Sodom & Gomorrah, the plagues, the Exodus, the Red Sea

- I. The 1st observation is no one knows. V.1**
- II. The 2nd observation is no one expects. V.2**
- III. The 3rd observation is no one believes. V.3a**
- IV. The 4th observation is no one escapes. V.3b**

- I. The 1st observation is no one knows. V.1**

Paul is changing from a discussion of blessings of the rapture of believers to the judgment of unbelievers. The terms times and seasons are measurements of times and the character of the times respectively. The combination of the two words denoted an indefinite time or a period of time in the future. (chreoneon & Karion)

This was a period of time and an event that Paul had already taught about. Jesus speaks of this time and season in **Matthew 24:3ff**.

- A. The signs of the times. **Matthew 24:3-14**
- B. The Great Tribulation. **Matthew 24:15-28**
- C. The coming of the Son of Man. **Matthew 24:29-31; Matthew 24:36-44**

- II. The 2nd observation is no one expects. V.2**

Believers should be very aware with complete and accurate assurance and anticipation, about God’s final judgment of the unbelievers, even though they did not know the exact time or day.

The end of men’s day and Satan’s day is followed by the “Day of the Lord.” Paul, also refers to this “Day” in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, a “Day” believers should be well aware of.

- A. The Old Testament speaks of this “Day.”
There are 19 basic verses of “The Day of the Lord” in the Old Testament. (**Isaiah 13:6-16**)
Joel 2:28-32 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. **29** And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. **30** "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. **31** The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. **32** And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

Zechariah 14:1-9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. **2** For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. **3** Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. **4** And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. **5** Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, *And* all the saints with You. **6** It shall come to pass in that day *That* there will be no light; The lights will diminish. **7** It shall be one day Which is known to the LORD-- Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen *That* it will be light. **8** And in that day it shall be *That* living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. **9** And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be-- "The LORD *is* one," And His name one.

1. The Old Testament prophets used “Day of the Lord” to describe near historical judgments (**Ezekiel 30:2-19**)
Amos 5:18-20 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good *is* the day of the LORD to you? It *will be* darkness, and not light. **19** It *will be* as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or *as though* he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! **20** *Is* not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? *Is it not* very dark, with no brightness in it?
2. The Old Testament **prophets** used it to predict future Last Day divine judgments.
Joel 2:30-32 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. **31** The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. **32** And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.
Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision.
Zechariah 14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.
Malachi 4:1 "For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

3. Six times it is referred to as “the day of doom” and 4 times “the day of vengeance.”

B. The New Testament speaks of this Day.

It is referred to 4 times in the New Testament.

Acts 2:17-24 `And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. **18** And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. **19** I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. **20** The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. **21** And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.' **22** "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- **23** "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; **24** "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

2 Thessalonians 2:2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

It is called the “day of wrath” or the “day of visitation,” the “Great day of God Almighty.”

Revelation 16:14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, *which* go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

These are terrifying judgments from God, for the overwhelming sinfulness of the world and the Satanic, demonic realm. The future coming time and season of the “Day of the Lord” which unleashes God’s wrath comes in several ways found in Revelation Chapters 6-9.

1. The Seals (7)
2. The Trumpets (7)
3. The Bowls (7)
4. The end of the 7 year tribulation (**Revelation 19:11-21**)
5. The end of the Millennium Kingdom (**Revelation 20:7-15**)

As a thief comes suddenly and unexpectedly, so will the “Day of the Lord” come in all its phases.

III. The 3rd observation is no one believes. V.3a

Just as false prophets and teachers of old forecast a bright future, in spite of God’s promise of Judgment, so they will again in future days just before the final days of the Lord’s destruction.

(**Ezekiel 13:10-16; 2 Peter 3:1-13**)

Jeremiah 6:14 They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, `Peace, peace!' When *there* is no peace.

Jeremiah 8:11 For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, `Peace, peace!' When *there* is no peace.

Jeremiah 14:13 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets say to them, `You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.'"

Lamentations 2:14 Your prophets have seen for you False and deceptive visions; They have not uncovered your iniquity, To bring back your captives, But have envisioned for you false prophecies and delusions.

Matthew 24:37-39 "But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. **38** "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **39** "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

These days will be like labor pains that come upon a woman that is pregnant. This demonstrates the inevitability, suddenness, and inescapability nature, as well as painfulness.

IV. The 4th observation is no one escapes. V.3b

Luke 21:34-36 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. **35** "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. **36** "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Isaiah 13:6-9 Wail, for the day of the LORD *is* at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. **7** Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt, **8** And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of *them*; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces *will be like* flames. **9** Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.

Hosea 13:13 The sorrows of a woman in childbirth shall come upon him. He *is* an unwise son, For he should not stay long where children are born.