

Sermon Title: The Picture of a Consistent Readiness

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

Sermon Purpose: To provide the hearer reasons why they can find encouragement and comfort in light of the “Day of the Lord.”

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 fundamental reasons for the believer’s encouragement and comfort in light of the “Day of the Lord.”

I. The difference of the believer’s domain. Vv.4-5

II. The difference of the believer’s distinctiveness. Vv.6-8

III. The difference of the believer’s destiny. Vv.9-11

Introduction: Paul shows the contrast between brothers and sisters in the Christian faith who are sons of the light and day, with the rest of the unbelieving humanity, who are night and darkness. Night people are associated with darkness, sleep, and drunkenness, while day people are associated with light, alertness, and soberness.

Psalm 107:10-16 Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Bound in affliction and irons-- **11** Because they rebelled against the words of God, And despised the counsel of the Most High, **12** Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and *there was* none to help. **13** Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, *And* He saved them out of their distresses. **14** He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And broke their chains in pieces. **15** Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His goodness, And *for* His wonderful works to the children of men! **16** For He has broken the gates of bronze, And cut the bars of iron in two.

I. The difference of the believer’s domain. Vv.4-5

A. The characteristics of those in the domain of darkness. V.4a

In the domain/sphere the spiritual darkness that engulfs and controls unbelievers includes intellectual and moral darkness. Intellectual darkness of ignorance:

1. about God
2. their need for salvation and
3. the judgment that is coming.

They are ignorant of the:

1. moral darkness of sin
2. of not knowing what is true, and
3. not doing what is right.

(Ephesians 5:8)

John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 3:19-20 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Ephesians 4:17-18 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, **18** having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

B. The characteristics of those in the **light**. V.5

To describe believers as “sons of light” is to say that light is a dominant influence and characteristic of their lives. Light belongs to the day just as darkness belongs to the night. The phrase “sons of” is often a part of an idiomatic Hebrew expression describing the dominant influence in a person’s life. Christians are characteristic of light because:

1. They are new creatures in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)
2. They are new creations (**Galatians 6:15**)
3. They are seated in heavenly places in Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 2:6**)
4. Their lives are hidden in Christ in God (**Colossians 3:3**)

Isaiah 9:2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Acts 26:18 'to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Matthew 4:12-16 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. **13** And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, **14** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: **15** "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, *By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:* **16** The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

1 Peter 2:9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Believers live in a different domain/sphere than those who will experience God’s wrath in the “Day of the Lord.” There is no judgment or condemnation for those in the domain of light.

II. The difference of the believer’s **distinctiveness**. Vv.6-8

A. The distinctive character of watching and alert believers. Vv.6, 8

Physical sleeping and drunkenness normally occur at night while it is dark. Paul issues an encouragement for Christians as sons of light and of the day, to be awake, meaning awake intellectually and morally. To live soberly (self-controlled) rather than sleepy and with drunken out of controlness. The Christian’s readiness is described with the military analogy of a soldier who is always prepared for war. (**Ephesians 6:13-17**)

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **12** teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

Romans 13:12-14 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. **13** Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

2 Peter 1:5-10 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, **6** to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, **7** to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. **8** For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. **10** Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

B. The distinctive character of sleeping and drunk unbelievers. V.7

The Greek Word for sleep in these verses (see also verse 10) is different than the word used in 4:13-15. Here it refers to moral lethargy or laxity. It is not surprising to find children of the night and darkness asleep in the spiritual sense or to spiritual things or truths.

Like the man in (**Matthew 24:43**), who was not aware that he was about to be robbed, or the Ten Virgins in (**Matthew 25:1-13**) who were not ready for the return of the groom, and found to be foolish, totally unaware of the disaster that would soon overtake them.

The “sons of light” not so (**1 Corinthians 2:10-16**) but is so for the sons of darkness (**Luke 21:34-36**). They exist in the domain of blackness as if in a coma or drunken stupor.

III. The difference of the believer’s destiny. Vv.9-11

A. The promise of the believer’s destiny provides confidence and comfort. V.9

Revelation 3:10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:33-34 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. **34** Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

B. The personhood of the believer’s destiny provides confidence and comfort. V.10

C. The practice of the believer’s destiny provides confidence and comfort. V.11