

DAY PEOPLE AND NIGHT PEOPLE

--1st THESSALONIANS 5:4-11--

INTRODUCTION:

Two weeks ago, we began the final chapter of 1st Thessalonians. We only looked at the first three verses where Paul was answering the concern of the Thessalonians about the Day of the Lord. Their concern was caused by some false teachers who were telling them that the Day of the Lord had already come, and this was alarming to them, and they wanted to know if this was true or when it would be. Paul reminded them that the Day of the Lord would come upon unbelievers unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. Destruction would come unexpectedly and suddenly, and no unbeliever will be able to escape from it.

In verses 4-11 Paul makes it clear that there are only two kinds of people in the world, believers and unbelievers. In this passage Paul contrasts Day People (Believers) from Night People (Unbelievers). Paul's purpose in contrasting the saved and the unsaved in this passage was to comfort the Thessalonians and to assure them that they would not go through the Day of the Lord. In contrasting Day People and Night People, Paul looks at three characteristics that set these two groups of people apart, their nature, their behavior, and their destiny.

I. THE CONTRAST OF NATURES (1st Thessalonians 5:4-5)

- a. Paul begins verse four with the words, "*But _____, Brethren...*" (1 Thessalonians 5:4a, NASB95)
- b. When we speak of the spiritual darkness of unbelievers, it must be understood that this darkness is both _____ and moral. (John 1:5; 3:19-20; Ephesians 4:17-18)
- c. But as those who have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we are not lost in this _____ of ignorance, sin, and rebellion. (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14; Amos 5:20)
- d. Paul in verse five describes believers as sons of _____ and sons of _____.
- e. Paul seeks to make what he is writing clear by emphatically declaring that believers are not of _____ nor of darkness.

II. THE CONTRAST OF BEHAVIOR (1st Thessalonians 5:6-8)

- a. Paul uses the phrase "_____" to show us the inseparable link between a believer's nature and their behavior.
- b. The term _____ that Paul uses here is a different word than what he used in chapter 4 when referring to those who were asleep in Jesus, those believers who had died in Christ.
- c. Living in such a way that is consistent with our new nature provides believers with _____, because living a righteous, godly life brings assurance of salvation.
- d. Where sleep is the natural condition of night people, Paul urges day people to be _____ and sober. (2nd Peter 3:14)
- e. Paul makes the self-evident remark in verse seven when he writes, "*For those who _____ do their sleeping at night, and those who get _____ get drunk at night.*" (1 Thessalonians 5:7, NASB95)
- f. Paul uses an example of a _____ to show what he meant by being alert and sober.
- g. Faith is _____ in God's power, promises, and plan.
- h. If faith forms the hard, protective outer surface of the Christian's breastplate, then _____ is its soft inner lining.
- i. The second piece of armor that Paul mentions is the _____ of the hope of salvation. (Philippians 3:21; 1st John 3:2-3)
- j. Only when we keep the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of the hope of salvation firmly in place can we _____ the onslaught from the forces of darkness.

III. THE CONTRAST OF DESTINIES (1st Thessalonians 5:9-11)

- a. As we come to these final verses of this passage, we must realize that the most sobering truth in Scripture is that God will _____ the wicked.
- b. The glorious message of the gospel is that the Lord Jesus Christ's substitutionary death paid in full the _____ for believers' sins and because of this, believers will not face God's wrath in judgment. (John 5:24; Romans 8:1)

- a. Christ's death on our behalf sets all day people, both those who are _____ and those who are _____, apart from night people.
- b. Paul ends this passage telling the Thessalonian believers to _____ one another and build up one another with this truth.

CONCLUSION:

One of two possible destinies awaits every member of the human race. What is your eternal destiny? If you stubbornly and rebelliously remain in spiritual darkness, then you will fall under God's wrath that will ultimately end with you being cast into the outer darkness of the lake of fire. But if you repent and through faith in Jesus Christ come into the light of salvation, then you will "...*share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.*" (Colossians 1:12b, NASB95) You will live forever in God's presence where John writes in Revelation 22:5, "*And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.*" (Revelation 22:5, NASB95)