

THE DAY OF THE LORD
--1st THESSALONIANS 5:1-3--

INTRODUCTION:

In chapter three of 1st Thessalonians, we learned that Paul was so concerned for the believers in Thessalonica that he sent Timothy to them. Timothy went to encourage the believers and then to report back to Paul about how they were doing. Some of the contents of chapters four and five seem to be in answer to some concerns that the Thessalonian believers were having that Timothy related to Paul. One concern they had was what would happen to those who died before the Rapture, would they miss out on the blessing of those who lived until Christ returned. We looked at Paul's response to this concern during the past two Sundays.

Another concern that the Thessalonian believers had was brought about by someone telling them that the resurrection and the Rapture had already occurred, and the Day of the Lord had come. They were concerned that they would have to live through the Day of the Lord, and they wanted to know when it would be. Paul assures them again that the Day of the Lord is still future and that as believers they will be with the Lord Jesus Christ on that day.

- I. WHEN IS THE DAY OF THE LORD? (1st Thessalonians 5:1)
- a. When we talk about _____, the Christian view of history is very different from the world's views on history. (Job 42:2; Isaiah 46:10)
 - b. As the history of this world continues to unfold the eternal plan and purpose of God, one of the _____ that is yet future is the Day of the Lord.
 - c. Paul taught the Thessalonian believers the sobering _____ of the Day of the Lord during the time that he was ministering among them before he was forced to leave the city.
 - d. Paul begins this passage on the Day of the Lord with the words, "_____ as to...," this is a transitional phrase.
 - e. Paul begins with "Now as to the _____ and the epochs, brethren..." (1 Thessalonians 5:1a, NASB95)

- f. The Thessalonians wanted to _____ when the Rapture and the Day of the Lord would take place.
- g. Paul responded by telling the Thessalonians, "...you have no need of anything to be _____ to you." (1 Thessalonians 5:1b, NASB95) (Acts 1:6-7)

- II. WHAT IS THE DAY OF THE LORD? (1st Thessalonians 5:2)
- a. Paul begins by reminding the Thessalonians what he had taught them about the _____ of the _____ when he was with them. (Matthew 24:42-44)
 - b. This phrase the Day of the Lord is an important biblical phrase that describes God's devastating future _____ on the wicked. (Isa. 2:12; 13:6, 9; Ezek. 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18 (2 times), 20; Obad. 15; Zeph. 1:7, 14 (2 times); Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:5; Acts 2:20; 2 Thess. 2:2; 2 Peter 3:10; present passage)
 - c. Unlike the Rapture which will not be preceded by any signs, there are several _____ that will herald the arrival of the Day of the Lord. (Malachi 4:5; 2nd Thessalonians 2)

- III. FOR WHOM IS THE DAY OF THE LORD? (1st Thess. 5:3a)
- a. As Paul continues to describe the Day of the Lord in verse three it is important to notice that he now switches to plural third-person _____.
 - b. By using the plural pronouns "_____" and "_____" which refers to unbelievers, Paul reassured the Thessalonian believers that they would not face destruction.

- IV. HOW COMPLETE IS THE DAY OF THE LORD? (1st Thessalonians 5:3b)
- a. The tragic result of unbelievers listening and believing those who are saying "peace and safety" is that they will be totally _____ for the Day of the Lord.
 - b. Our Scripture reading this morning from the prophet Zephaniah described the _____ and _____ of the Day of the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

You who have put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ should be comforted by the reality that you will be raptured before the coming of the Day of the Lord. You will not experience its horrors, its destruction. Yet knowing that this event is coming in God's perfect timing should also motivate us to be a witness to those around us. The tragic reality is that those who reject the Lord Jesus Christ will experience God's wrath both temporally and eternally.

If you are here today and you have not put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, if you are not sure that you will be saved from the wrath to come, you can know today. You must decide to come in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ, agreeing with God that you are a sinner, but believing that Jesus Christ died as your substitute, suffering the wrath of God against sin on your behalf, believing that He was buried proving that He died the death you deserve for your sin, but that on the third day rose from the dead to never die again, proving that the sin penalty was paid, and conquering death as the guarantee that we will conquer it as well, and that one day we will have a glorified body like Christ's own glorified body and we will live in God's presence for eternity. You can know today where you will spend eternity, I promise you it will be the most important decision that you will ever make, and it will change your life forever. The sobering words of the writer of Hebrews sums up this message, he wrote in Hebrews 2:3, "...*how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*" (Hebrews 2:3a, NASB95)