Sons of the Day

Lesson 18: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28

May 5, 2019
Outline of the Letter

• 1:1-4 Introduction
• 1:5-3:13 Gospel ministry (Faith)
  • 1:5-10 The gospel among the Thessalonians
    • 1:5 The coming of the gospel
    • 1:6-10 The response to the gospel
  • 2:1-16 Gospel ministry by Paul
    • 2:1-6 The gospel in word
    • 2:7-12 The gospel in deed
    • 2:13-16 Results of gospel ministry
  • 2:17-3:13 Mutual love in the gospel
    • 2:17-3:5 Motivation for the sending of Timothy
    • 3:6-13 Timothy’s report and Paul’s response
Outline of the Letter

• 4:1-5:22  Godly living (Love and Hope)
  • 4:1-12  Living to please God (Love)
    • 4:1-8  Love for God: Sanctification
    • 4:9-12  Love for believers
  • 4:13-5:11  The coming of the Lord (Hope)
    • 4:13-18  The coming of the Lord for believers
    • 5:1-11  The day of the Lord for unbelievers
  • 5:12-22  Exhortations (Love)
    • 5:12-15  Towards believers
    • 5:16-22  Towards God
• 5:23-28  Conclusion
Lesson Outline

• 4:1-5:22  Godly living (Love and Hope)
  • 4:1-12  Living to please God (Love)
  • 4:13-5:11  The coming of the Lord (Hope)
    • 4:13-18  The coming of the Lord for believers
    • 5:1-11  The day of the Lord for unbelievers
      • 5:1-3  The coming of the day of the Lord
      • 5:4-10  How believers should live in light of the day of the Lord
      • 5:11  Response to the coming of the day of the Lord
  • 5:12-22  Exhortations (Love)
    • 5:12-15  Towards believers
      • 5:12-13a  Leaders
      • 5:13b-15  All believers
    • 5:16-22  Towards God
Lesson Outline

• 5:23-28 Conclusion
  • 5:23-24 Prayer
  • 5:25-27 Final commands
  • 5:28 Blessing
1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

• They vs. you
  • The day of the Lord is in reference to unbelievers
  • Judgment is not anticipated by unbelievers

• Two metaphors
  • Thief – unexpected
  • Labor pains – sudden
1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

• Contrasts
  • Darkness/light
  • Sleep/alert
  • Drunk/sober

• Armor
  • Protecting the heart – faith and love
  • Protecting the mind – hope
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

• Requests in relation to leaders
  • Appreciate
  • Esteem in love

• Characteristics of leaders
  • Diligently laboring
  • Having charge
  • Giving instruction
  • Working
1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit; 20 do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

• Types of believers needing help
  • Unruly – admonish
  • Fainthearted – encourage
  • Weak – help

• Be patient with everyone

• Our relationship to God
  • Rejoice
  • Pray
  • Give thanks
1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. 27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
Summary

• The day of the Lord should lead us to holy living and being alert
• Believers are destined for salvation, not wrath
• Leaders are to be esteemed in love for their labor
• Be gentle and patient with believers who need help
• Give thanks to God in all circumstances
• God will be faithful to sanctify us

• To be effective, the Gospel must come with more than words
• We should rejoice in, and thank God for, other believers
• We should be most concerned about the faith of other believers
• The Lord’s return needs to be a comfort to us