

Introduction and Review

How is the 2nd coming of the Lord like a thief?

**Prepare for next Sunday:
1 Thessalonians 5:6-11**

Matthew 24:36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

Why did Paul teach about this second coming?

- _____ understanding of the second coming
- thought that the coming was immediate therefore they did not need to _____
- were concerned that those who had already _____ would not share in the r _____ ion.
- Paul warns to be r _____ y because no one k _____ exactly when _____ will return

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 (ESV)

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

1) 5:1 Times and Seasons

(5:1) Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers,

- "now concerning"
- "times and seasons"
- refers to the second _____

Acts 1:6-7 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

- "brothers"
- _____ times Paul reminds them of their connection to the family of God

you have no need to have anything written to you.

- Paul preaches these truths to Felix

Acts 24:25 And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you."

2) 5:2-3 Thief in the Night

(5:2) For you yourselves are fully aware

- "fully aware"

- these believers were taught by Paul Silvanus and Timothy and they already know things

- knew that Paul came with pure motives to preach the gospel

1 Thessalonians 2:5 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed-- God is witness.

that the day of the Lord

- "day of the Lord"

-in the Old Testament the day of the Lord is a day that is both judgment and salvation

i) day of the Lord is Judgment

- the book of Amos speaks extensively of the day of the Lord

- it is a day of _____ for those who rebel against God

Amos 5:18-20 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹ as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰ Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

ii) day of the Lord is Salvation

- Zechariah 14 speaks about the restoration of the land and the people of God by the grace of God

Zechariah 14:8-9, 11 On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. ⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one. ¹¹ And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.

- so the "day of the Lord" is one of s_____ and p_____ much like what Paul says in 2 Thessalonians about the day of the Lord Jesus

will come like a thief in the night.

- Jesus is very clear on this topic in Matthew 24

Matthew 24:37-39 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew 24:42-44 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

(5:3) While people are saying, "There is peace and security,"

- attitude of complete r_____ of the Lord and His glory

Micah 3:5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths.

then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

- this "destruction" is the word that is used for the punishment of God upon sinners

- Paul uses this word in 2 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians 1:9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

- Paul equates this coming destruction to that of labor pains for two main reasons:

- i) labor pains are p_____ and so this judgment and destruction will be painful
- ii) labor pains begin without w_____ing.

3) 5:4-5 Total Change

(5:4) But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

- Paul talks about d_____ and l_____ in his other letters

Colossians 1:12-13 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

- d_____ is our sinful state (sin equals darkness)

- Jesus bears the p_____ for our sin in our place
- Jesus delivers us are delivered from such darkness! – from the sin and the punishment of our sins

- instead we say, “Jesus is our p_____, Jesus is our security”

(5:5) For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

- those who are in Christ belong to the day and the l_____!

2 Corinthians 4:4-6 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- we cannot turn on a personal light that switch, it is the w_____ of Jesus

John 12:46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

Application

1) Christian, How Do You Get Ready For The Coming Of Jesus?

- if you are a Christian, you _____ ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus
- those in Christ will always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- receive the grace of God given to His people through Jesus - this is the only way we can be ready
- be sober and to be r_____ (Matthew 24-25)
- be h_____ = Peter
- put on love, patience, gentleness, self-control, humility
- take the time to get into God's _____ and be transformed by the Holy _____!

2) Non-Christian, How Do You Get Ready For The Coming Of Jesus?

- do not wait -- only Jesus gives peace and security from the wrath of God which we all deserve!
- hear this promise a few verses later
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.
- receive salvation through Jesus Christ
- receive His Grace, receive his Mercy,
- change your m_____ about sin
- embrace _____ Christ as your all and all, and as your greatest treasure!