



1 Thessalonians - Study Guide for the Teaching Series

Week 8 – Sunday 23rd August 2020: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 – Ready for Revival?

Please read 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Read verses 1-2 again, and Matthew 24.42-44. All of us want security. Our homes are symbols of security, so the picture of the “thief in the night” speaks to the fear of losing the security of our home.

1. Why do people find a false sense of security in this world (by listening, say, to false teachers who promise they know what will happen in the future or false teachers who say “peace and safety” – everything’s okay) rather than face the eternal reality and find eternal security in God’s Kingdom?
2. Where do you see indications that your own focus on ‘peace and safety’ in this life pushes eternal peace and safety into the background?

Read verse 3 again, and Romans 8.23-25. Christians are “pregnant with promise” – our labour on earth is leading to the new life of the resurrection.

3. How do you react, then, to these shocking pictures of the “thief in the night” and the woman in labour?
4. How do these pictures incentivize you to share the gospel?

Read verses 4-10 again. Paul calls us to live as “children of the day and of the light” for that is who we are in Christ. We are not children of the night and Paul does not give the compromise of being children of the twilight!

5. How does Paul’s contrasting pictures of light/darkness, night/day, sober/drunk, awake/asleep, clothed/naked help you understand your calling and way of life as a Christian?

In the sermon, I described the idea of ‘spiritual insomnia’ as the state when we are overstimulated by the world, where the lines between light & darkness are constantly blurred, and we become spiritually exhausted as we attempt to live in the twilight. The impact upon our spiritual health is devastating. We become lethargic, apathetic, restless, anxious, fearful, sad, lacking focus and purpose.

6. Do you think there is such a thing as ‘spiritual insomnia’? How are you impacted by it?
7. Where do you think your lines have become blurred? And Why?

Read verse 11 again. Paul calls us to build each other up and encourage each other with the truth that we are children of the light, pregnant with promise, labouring for new life, secure in our eternal home. I encouraged you by asking you to pray for revival in our hearts, homes and church.

8. Why do we need to get back to revival rather than ‘back to normal’? What will change in your life?