



PROPER 28 ARTICLE NO. 2005.922
1 Th 5:1-10

Christ's coming to Judgment

(1 Th 5:1-10)



But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Much of this tract is commentary - don't take it as Gospel. It is here to encourage meditation and study. Use your gift of discernment, to find the truth.

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Be prepared

This was the very first book of the NT written by Paul from Greece c. 49-51 CE. Thessalonica is an important stop on the main Roman highway running across northern Greece and connected Anatolia to Italy. Phillipi was also on the route. Paul had some opposition in Phillipi and established a small community there, as he did next with Thessalonica.

In 1:9 we read that the Thessalonians "turned to God from idols"), so most of these converts were Gentiles.

Paul was forced to move on (?), and eventually reached Corinth from which he wrote this letter. This passage is a continuation of Proper 27.

The saints at Thessalonica are worried that the Lord hasn't yet returned, and what will happen to them if they die before the Lord returns, how will they be saved? And what about the brothers who have died already, will they join those still alive when the Lord returns?

Paul says that no-one knows when the Lord will come, but that they must be ready for His surprise arrival.

Those that think that the time for the Lord's return is already past, that he will not be coming, and that they can breath a sigh of relief, sleep and get drunk, will be caught off guard by his sudden appearance, and these unprepared people will be punished.

He admonishes them:

Do not fall asleep on the job or, in a drunken state, miss the morning arrival of the Lord. And do not be angry that it is taking so long for the Lord to come back. For they have been chosen for salvation and whether they are alive in body or dead, they will be saved, and all will live together with Christ.

The Views expressed here are strictly those of the author and probably disagree with what you have previously thought. Read other commentaries - meditate on the original KJV.