



## LESSON SIX

# Kingdom Come 1 Thessalonians 5

**Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.**

**But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.**

**Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.**

**Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

**Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.**

**May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.**

**Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.**

1. To you personally, does Jesus's second coming feel like a distant expectation or very near reality? Why do you feel this way? Do you always feel this way or just during certain times?

2. Both Jesus and Paul teach that nobody knows when the second coming will occur and that it will be sudden (vs. 1-3 and Matthew 24:42-44). In your opinion, why do some Christians always try to figure out the actual date? Why might God want believers to live in expectancy?

3. How are Romans 13:12; Ephesians 5:8-9; and 1 John 2:5-10 similar to what Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5? According to these passages, how does a believer live as a child of the light?

4. What are the commonalities between vs. 8 and Ephesians 6:10-17? In your opinion, why did Paul only mention one common piece of armor in vs. 8? Why is his description of the breastplate different in vs. 8? (HINT: look at the surrounding verses and the issues that Paul is addressing)

5. List all of Paul's commands to believers in 1 Thessalonians 5:11-22 (for instance, he says "encourage one another" in vs. 11) and answer some or all of the following questions:

- Is there a logical flow to the order of Paul's commands?
- Did Paul talk about any of these commands in chapters 1-4? If so, what did he say about them in previous chapters?
- Do you excel in any of these commands? If so, which ones?
- Are there any of these commands difficult for you? If so, why?

6. In verses 23-24, Paul talks about God sanctifying us (e.g., making us more like Christ each day). He specifically mentions our spirit, soul, and body should be blameless. Answer some or all of the following:

- What is the difference between our spirit and soul?
- How are our spirit, soul, and body connected?
- Can our body be blameless but not our spirit or can our spirit be blameless but not our body? If so, why or why not?

7. What are 1 or 2 of your greatest takeaways from 1 Thessalonians? (a takeaway could be a learning, challenge, promise, reminder, experience, example, etc.)

## **PERSONAL GROWTH**

1. Choose a verse to memorize from chapter 5. Review the verses you've memorized from previous chapters... or work to memorize some verses from each chapter.
2. This week, read 1 Thessalonians (in one sitting) once a day for 5 days. Each day, try reading from a different Bible version.
3. Write down one takeaway from each chapter in 1 Thessalonians.
4. Read Jesus's parables in Matthew 25 and answer the following questions:
  - What do they have in common with 1 Thessalonians 5?
  - What do they say about why we should live in expectancy and how to do so?
  - Regarding how-to live-in expectancy, what do these verses say about our attitudes, actions, emotions, treatment of others, commitment to holiness, service, sacrifice, etc.?