Lesson 13

The Day of the Lord (Part 1)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. — James 5:7-9

Day 1: Times and Epochs (v. 1)

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. -1 Thessalonians 5:1

1. What does Paul mean by "the times and epochs (or seasons)"?

2. What does the Bible teach us about the purpose of history?

3. What questions do you think Paul could be answering here?

a. What are your questions about the Day of the Lord?

4. Why did they have no need of anything to be written to them?

5. What do we need to know about the "times and epochs"?

a. Do we have all we need to know on this subject?

6. Read the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24-25. Is there anything that stands out to you?

Day 2: A Thief in the Night (v. 2)

For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. — 1 Thessalonians 5:2

1. Read Matthew 24:36-44. What similarities do you see between the teaching of Paul and the teaching of Jesus?

2. What is the Day of Lord?

3. Find two other passages in Scripture that talk about the Day of the Lord. How is that day described?

4. What do Joel 1:15; 2:1 and Zephaniah 1:14 tell us about the Day of the Lord?

a. What should our hearts be towards unbelievers in light of this?

b. Write down names of people you desire to share the gospel with. Pray for opportunity and act. Continue to pray for their salvation.

5. What do we have to do to be ready for the Day of the Lord?

6. What does the thief in the night picture?

7. The Day of the Lord is uninvited and unannounced. How does this differ from 1 Thessalonians 4:16?

Day 3: The Inescapable Labor (v. 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. — 1 Thessalonians 5:3

1. Scripture gives us a number of signs that will precede the day of the Lord. In light of this, how is it that people will be crying out that they have peace and safety?

2. Is "peace" and "safety" a new concept for false teachers? See Jeremiah 14:13-14, 6:14, 8:11 and 23:17.

3. Who is Paul referring to when he says "them" in verse 3?

4. Paul uses the analogy of a woman going into labour to the destruction that is coming. What is the significance of this?

5. Read Revelation 2-3. What warnings does Christ have for the Church as the Day of the Lord draws near?

6. Is there any escape for an unbeliever from eternal punishment?

Day 4: The Contrast (vs. 4-5)

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; -1 Thessalonians 5:4-5

1. Read Ephesians 5:8. How does this relate to 1 Thess 5:4-5?

2. Which two groups of people are being contrasted in verses 4-11?

3. Who are the heads of the two groups of people?

4. Do a word study about light and darkness. What does Scripture say these?

5. What comfort does Paul give to the Thessalonians? What comfort do we find in this verse?

Day 5: Are you sleeping? (v. 6)

so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. -1 Thessalonians 5:6

1. What is the phrase "so then" referring to?

2. What does it mean for a believer to sleep?

3. What does it mean to be alert?

4. What does it mean to be sober?

- 5. According to the following passages, what does being alert and sober look like in the life of a believer?
 - a. 1 Peter 5:8-9

b. Titus 2:2

c. 1 Corinthians 15:34

d. 1 Timothy 3:11

- e. 1 Peter 4:7
- f. 1 Peter 1:13

6. Are there any areas of your Christian life in which you're becoming sleepy? Any areas in which you are fully asleep? What will you do about this?

Dig Deeper

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What are the pieces of the armour of God? What does God do with each, and what should we do with each?

2. Do a word study on wrath (org \bar{e}).

3. Write a prayer of thanksgiving that the Lord has caused you to be a son of light.

4. Do a character/attribute study on the Justice of God.

5. Read Revelation 4-5. Who starts the Day of the Lord and the Tribulation period of Judgement?