

“A Hope That Helps!”
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Introduction:

1. Looked Last Week At The Hope That Is Available For Every Christian!
 - That Jesus Christ Is Coming Again!
 - And Whether You Are Dead Or Alive At That Time, “Noone Gets Left Behind!”
 - This Important Teaching Is What Prepares You For Death!
 - 1 Corinthians 15:55 - “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”
 - This Important Teaching Is What Comforts Christians Everywhere & At All Times!
 - 4:18 - “Wherefore comfort one another with these words!”
2. With Such A Great Hope Before Them:
 - It Would Only Be Natural For The Thessalonians To Want To Know **When** The Coming Of Christ Would Take Place!
 - What Better Way To “Comfort One Another” Than To Tell Them Not Just **What** Is Going To Happen, But **When**?
 - This Is What Paul Is Addressing In Chapter 5!
 - He Didn’t Just Want Them To Be: Prepared To Die!
 - He Wanted Them To Be: Prepared To Live!
 - Don’t Worry About “The Times And The Seasons” – It Will Come When God Has Planned!
 - Instead, Let The **Hope** Of The Coming Of Christ **Help** You In Your Daily Walk With Christ!
3. Your Hope Is Your Help!
 - To Walk With God & To Please Him With The Rest Of The Live He Has Given You On Earth!
 - Read 5:1-6!

* Your Hope In The Coming Of Christ Will:

1. ***Help You Have The Right Kind Of Perspective!***
 - 5:1-2 - “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!”
 - About The Lord’s Concern For You!
 - You Can Take Comfort & Give Comfort In His Return, Because It Shows His Great Concern For You!
 - Concern About Your Difficulties!
 - “Brethren” – Term Of Love & Identification!
 - Opposition From Your Neighbors!
 - Holiness In Your Life!
 - Love For Your Church!
 - Death Of Your Loved Ones!
 - All Very Difficult! And This Is Why The Coming Of Christ Is So Important! Helps You Through These Difficulties & Duties!
 - Concern About Your Desire!
 - To Know When! Curiosity!
 - Even Though The Timing Of This Event Is Unknown, It Doesn’t Mean That It Won’t Happen!
 - And This Is Why It Was Taught To Them Before Paul Ever Left Thessalonica!
 - There Was “No Need” For Him To Write To Them About This! It Was A Primary Focus Of Their Teaching!
 - Ought To Be A Primary Focus Of Our Teaching!
 - And Of Our Meditation!
 - It Shows You That The Lord Cares For You! Therefore, He Will Come For You!
 - About The Lord’s Coming For You!
 - And He Wants You To Know Some Of The:
 - Details Of The “Day Of The Lord!”

- Found In Chapter 4 & 5! Includes:
 - The Return / The Resurrection / The Rapture / The Reunion / The Ruin Of The Unsaved Left Behind!
- Description Of The “Day Of The Lord!”
 - “Cometh As A Thief In The Night!”
 - Uncertain / Unannounced / Unplanned / Unexpected!
 - To The Person Being Robbed – Not The Robber!
 - Spent Time “Casing” The Place & Making Plans & Preparations!
 - The Lord Is Making Plans & Preparations Also!
 - But So Many Are Unprepared!
- It Doesn’t Have To Be This Way!
- Your Hope In The Coming Of Christ Will:
 - Help You Have The Right Kind Of Perspective!
 - He Is Concerned For You!
 - He Is Coming For You!
 - What Greater Comfort Is There!
 - Even If You Don’t Know Exactly When!

2. ***Help You Keep The Right Kind Of Peace!***

- 5:3 - “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!”
 - Only Those Who Have The Right Perspective / Understanding About The Coming Of Christ Will Have The Right Kind Of Peace!
 - But When Jesus Does Return, There Will Be Many Who Will Not Be Ready!
 - And They Made No Preparations!
 - For Them, At The Coming Of Christ:
- Their Peace Will Be An Illusion!
 - “Peace And Safety!”
 - They Will Continue To Live Life The Same Way They Always Have – In Confidence / Pride / Shamelessness!
 - They Will Be Surprised!
 - **IE:** Waking Up With Our Front Door Open!
 - Like The Days Of Noah & Lot!
 - Luke 17:26-30 - “And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. / They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. / Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; / But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. / Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed!”
- Their Peace Will Be Interrupted!
 - “Then Sudden Destruction Cometh Upon Them!”
 - Doesn’t Mean Here That The Destruction Is Quick, But That Its Coming Will Be Quick!
 - Not Like A Car Wreck / But Like The Titanic Sinking – The Striking Of The Iceberg Was Quick, But That Was Just The Beginning Of The End!
 - The Lord’s Coming Will Bring On “The Beginning Of Sorrows!” (Matthew 24:8 / Mark 13:8)
 - And Their End Will Be:
 - Painful!
 - A Process!
- Their Peace Will Be Impossible!
 - Because Of The Process Of Their Ruin!
 - “As Travail Upon A Woman With Child; And They Shall Not Escape!”
 - Contractions Come:
 - Suddenly!
 - Painfully!

- Regularly!
- Progressively! Getting Worse & Worse!
- The Only Way To Have The Right Kind Of Peace:
 - Is To Go To The Source Of The Pain!
 - Now Is The Time To Go To The Lord & Point Others To The Lord! For: “The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy!” (Psalm 145:8)

3. ***Help You Maintain The Right Kind Of Purity!***

- 5:4-5 - “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!”
 - Paul Was Persuaded That The Thessalonian Christians Were Not Going To Suffer This Lack Of Peace, Because There Was Evidence Of Their Purity!
 - Not In Darkness / But In Light!
 - Not Of The Night / But Of The Day!
 - Therefore, The “Day Of The Lord” Will Not Be For Their Ruin (Like A Thief) – But For What They Saw In Chapter 4 – The Return / Resurrection / Rapture / Reunion!
- The Darkness Is Past!
 - The Picture & Place Of Wickedness!
 - “Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil!”
 - “To You, At Least, It [The Coming Of Christ] Will Be No Surprise, But Only What You’ve Been Looking For!” (John Lillie)
- The Light Is Present!
 - The Light Of Fellowship With God!
 - Isaiah 2:5 - “O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD!”
 - 1 John 1:7 - “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin!”
 - The Light Of Faithfulness To God!
 - Ephesians 5:8 - “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light!”
- Your Hope In The Coming Of Christ:
 - Will Help You Maintain The Right Kind Of Purity!
 - Because 1 John 3:2-3 - “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. / And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure!”

4. ***Help You Make The Right Kind Of Preparation!***

- 5:6 - “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober!”
 - Prepare By:
 - Be Awake From Your Dreams!
 - “Therefore Let Us Not Sleep, As Do Others!”
 - The Ones Who Do Dream About “Peace & Safety!”
 - It Is Natural For Someone To Sleep At Night!
 - But Since You Are Of The Day, Don’t Let Spiritual Sleepiness / Slothfulness / Sinfulness Ruin Your Preparation!
 - Be Awake!
 - Be Alert To Your Dangers!
 - “But Let Us Watch!”
 - “Be Alert, Arrive Unhurt!”
 - Mark 13:37 - “Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch!”
 - Be Attentive To Your Duties!
 - “Be Sober!”
 - “Let Us Be Sober, That We May Watch!” (Lillie)
 - 1 Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,

- walketh about, seeking whom he may devour!”
- Your Hope In The Coming Of Christ:
 - Will Help You Make The Right Kind Of Preparation!
 - Are You Ready?

Conclusion:

1. Has Your Hope In The Coming Of Christ Helped You In Your Walk With Christ?
 - If You Have The Right Perspective:
 - It Will Help You With:
 - Your Peace!
 - Your Purity!
 - Your Preparations!
2. Revelation 16:15 - “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame!”

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