

1 Thessalonians 5

1. What is the Day of the Lord?

-The time when God pours out His anger on the earth against sin and against those who refuse to believe in God.

2. How is the Day of the Lord during the time of Israel different from the final Day of the Lord which will come?

-The Day of the Lord during the time of Israel was only for the Jews and for other peoples living near them.

-The final Day of the Lord which will come, however, will be the most terrible.

-All of the people on earth and all of the earth will take part in this.

3. Will Christians be on earth at the final Day of the Lord?

-No. We will be in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. What does it mean that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night?

-It means that the time will come when people are not expecting it.

5. When will the final Day of the Lord begin?

-It will begin after Jesus has taken His children out of this world and into heaven.

6. When will the final Day of the Lord end?

-It will end after Satan and evil have been destroyed and God has created a new heaven and a new earth.

7. Why is it important for Christians to be awake and sober?

-Because the world is always trying to push us to sin.

-Because our own flesh is always trying to push us to sin.

-Because Satan and his demons are always trying to push us to sin.

8. Why must the wrath of God be poured out on all sin?

-Because all sin is against God, and God did not create a world of sin.

9. Why is God so angry about sin?

-Because sin hurts God.

-Because sin hurts people.

-Because sin hurts all of creation.

10. Why does the Word of God say that Christians are not chosen to suffer the wrath of God?

-Because Christ's death has paid the price for our sin, the wrath of God is no longer on us.

-We will now study the last verses of 1 Thessalonians.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

12-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.

13-Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

-Who are those who work hard among us, who care for us in the Lord, and who admonish us?

-The elders of the church.

-Are the pastors of the church also elders of the church?

-Yes.

-Because the elders of the church are the leaders, we must always support them.

-The church is the family of God.

-In a family, if the father and mother do well, then all of the family will do well.

-In the church, if the elders do well, then all of the church will do well.

-The church is also like sheep with shepherds.

-In a flock, if the shepherds do well, then all of the sheep will do well.

-In the church, if the shepherds or elders do well, then all of the sheep of the church will do well.

-If the elders of the church are supported, then all of the people in the church will do well.

-If the elders of the church are not supported, then all of the people in the church will not do well.

-We support the elders of the church because they work hard for us.

-In 1 Thessalonians 2:9, Paul talks about his hard work for the church:

-“Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.”

-We support the elders of the church because they care for us.

-As a shepherd cares for his sheep, elders care for the members of the church.

-We support the elders of the church because they admonish us.

-To admonish means to encourage, to teach, and to warn.

-As a father and mother encourage, teach, and warn their children, so pastors or elders do the same for us.

-Because elders are the leaders of the church, Satan, his demons, and even people may attack them more.

-This is why we must pray for the elders for God to protect them.

-If, however, elders are not obeying the Word of God, should we support them?

-No.

-The Word of God first teaches us to hold elders in the highest respect in love.

-Now, the Word of God teaches us that we should help Christians in the church who are in need.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:14

14-And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

-A church is only as healthy as its members.

-If the church members are spiritually healthy, then the entire church does well.

-If the church members, however, are not spiritually healthy, then the entire church suffers.

-This is why we must help one another to remain spiritually healthy.

-When there are people in the church who are idle and disruptive, we must warn them.

-People in the church who are idle cause the entire church to not be able to do all that God would have us do.

-People in the church who are disruptive can cause the church to divide in two.

-When there are people in the church who are disheartened, we must encourage them.

-We all become disheartened from time to time, and we all need to be encouraged from time to time.

-When there are people in the church who are weak, we must help them.

-Who are the weak?

-Those who are not strong in their faith.

-Those who easily sin when tempted.

-Does it help those who are weak if we criticize or condemn them?

-No.

-We must not forget that our faith used to be weak when we first became Christians.

-We must not forget that no one can resist temptation without the power of the Holy Spirit.

-There will always be people in the church who will be weaker than others.

-By helping these people to be stronger, we are helping the entire church.

-How can we help the weak?

-By visiting them, praying with them, and encouraging them in the Word of God.

-All Christians should be patient with everyone else in the church.

-In the church, arguments happen because people are not patient with one another.

-While we may not have patience, Jesus in us has all of the patience that we need.

-This is why we must ask the Lord Jesus to use His patience in us when we are with others in the church.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:15

15-Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

-When someone in the church wrongs us, our flesh wants to pay them back.

-This, however, is not the way of God.

-If we try and pay someone back wrong for wrong, this is what will happen:

-We will hurt the one who wronged us.

-We will hurt others in the church.

-We will hurt ourselves most of all.

-Wrong cannot be overcome by wrong.

-Evil cannot be overcome by evil.

-Wrong can only be overcome by right.

-Evil can only be overcome by good.

-This is why the Word of God teaches us this:

-Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

-The Lord Jesus is our best example of right overcoming wrong and good overcoming evil.

-Even though the Israelites crucified Him, Christ asked the Father to forgive them.

-Here is what the Lord Jesus said:

-“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).

-How was the Lord Jesus able to say this?

-Because the Lord Jesus is asking the Father to forgive those who crucified Him.

-It is God who must forgive sin because all sin is against God.

-It is God who must forgive sin because sin is more powerful than people.

-Yet, it is our work to allow our Father to take care of the wrong that others have wronged us with.

-Only God can take care of wrong and overcome wrong with right.

-Only God can take care of evil and overcome evil with good.

-Finally, in the remaining verses, God through Paul teaches all Christians how we should live our lives.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:16

16-Rejoice always,

-The Word of God teaches us to rejoice always.

-When all is going well, is it difficult to rejoice?

-No.

-When we are having many problems, is it difficult to rejoice?

-Yes.

-In this world, there are two types of joy.

-There is a worldly joy and a spiritual joy.

-A worldly joy comes from worldly riches, but is never satisfied.

-If people have a big house and much money, they can have worldly joy, but are never satisfied.

-They always want more, but are never satisfied.

-A spiritual joy comes from God alone, and is not dependent on the things of this world.

-Here is an illustration:

-Even though Paul and Silas were beaten and put into prison in Philippi for teaching about God, they were rejoicing in God.

-How could Paul and Silas rejoice even though they were beaten and in prison?

-How could Paul and Silas rejoice even though life was difficult for them?

-Were Paul and Silas rejoicing because of what they had?

-No.

-Were Paul and Silas rejoicing because of where they were?

-No.

-Why were Paul and Silas rejoicing?

-Because their joy was a spiritual joy from God alone.

-Because they knew that they had a place in eternity with God where there is no sin, no hurt, and no death.

-Because of Jesus in their lives.

-Why does the Word of God teach us to rejoice always?

-God wants us to think of our spiritual joy more than our worldly joy.

-God wants us to depend more on Christ than on what we have in this world.

-How can all of us Christians rejoice always?

-Because of Jesus in our lives.

-Because nothing can separate us from the love of God.

-True joy is a spiritual fruit of the Holy Spirit (Ga 5:22).

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:17

17-Pray continually.

-The Word of God teaches us to pray continually.

-Is it possible for us to pray continually?

-If the Word of God teaches us to pray continually, then it is possible to pray continually.

-Is prayer only closing our eyes and praying?

-No.

-We can pray with our eyes open.

-Is prayer only kneeling and praying?

-No.

-We can pray when we are standing up or sitting down.

-Is prayer only talking out loud and praying?

-No.

-We can pray without talking out loud.

-If we were to pray by only closing our eyes or kneeling or talking out loud, we could not pray continually.

-The Lord Jesus when He was on earth prayed continually to the Father, sometimes praying all night (Luke 6:12).

-The early church devoted themselves to prayer, praying continually to our Father (Acts 1:14; 2:42),

-In 1 Thessalonians 3:10, Paul said this:

-“Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.”

-How can we pray continually?

-By allowing our God to be a part of our thinking, our talking, and our moving from morning to night.

-We should allow our God to be a part of our thinking.

-We should allow our God to be a part of our talking.

-We should allow our God to be a part of our moving.

-If we can pray continually, then we will trust in God and not in ourselves.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:18

18-Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

-Why should we give thanks in all circumstances?

-Because God is in complete control of this world.

-Because God is in complete control of our lives.

-Does God want us to give thanks even when He allows bad things to happen in our lives?

-Yes.

-Why can we thank God even for the bad things He allows into our lives?

-Because we know that God uses bad things in our lives for His good purpose for us.

-God used the evil of Joseph's brothers who sold Joseph into slavery for the good purpose of saving thousands of people from the famine in Egypt.

-God used the evil of throwing Daniel into the lion's den for the good purpose of the king Darius commanding all people to fear the God of Daniel.

-God used the evil of the Israelites who helped crucify Jesus on the cross for the good purpose of saving millions of people who have believed in Christ.

-For every Christian, God uses the evil of sin, death, and Satan for the good purpose of saving us for eternal life.

-As it is written in Romans 8:28:

-“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

-It is not only God’s good purpose to save us, but also God’s good purpose to make us like the Lord Jesus.

-As it is written in 1 John 3:2:

-“We know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

-This is why we give thanks in all circumstances.

Let’s read 1 Thessalonians 5:19

19-Do not quench the Spirit.

-Sometimes in the Word of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit is spoken of as a fire.

-This is why God is teaching us not to quench the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

-We do not want to quench the Holy Spirit as He teaches us the Word of God.

-We do not want to quench the Holy Spirit as He brings us closer to our Father.

-We do not want to quench the Holy Spirit as He makes us more like Jesus.

-We do not want to quench the Holy Spirit as He helps us to know the will of God.

-When we refuse to listen to or obey the Word of God, we are quenching the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

-While it is possible to quench the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the blood of Christ remains in our lives if we have truly believed.

Let’s read 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21

20-Do not treat prophecies with contempt.

21-But test them all; hold on to what is good.

-What does the Word of God mean by prophecies?

-Paul often used the word “prophecies” to mean the teaching of the Word of God.

-Before the Bible was completed, God gave some Christians the gift of prophecy.

-We learn in Ephesians 4:11-12 that Christ Himself gave prophets so that the body of Christ would be built up.

-These Christians would prophecy or teach the Word of God which God Himself had given to them.

-This is why they were called prophets, as they taught the Word of God that Christ Himself taught them.

-In 2 Peter 1:20, we learn that the Word of God is called the prophecy of Scripture.

-In the same verse, we also learn that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things.

-In Revelation 1:3, John the apostle calls that which is written in the book of Revelation "the words of this prophecy."

-These verses teach us that "prophecies" are the teaching of the Word of God.

-Why does the Word of God teach us to test everything?

-Because there are many false prophets and false teachers who do not teach the Word of God.

-How can we be sure that a prophecy is from the Lord?

-By testing it to see if it agrees with the Word of God.

-This is what the Bereans did when Paul left Thessalonica to teach in Berea:

-“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true” (Acts 17:11).

-By comparing that which people are teaching with the Word of God, we will know if the teaching is true.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:22

22-Reject every kind of evil.

-Just as we must study the Word of God to test whether prophecy or teaching is true, we must also study the Word of God to keep us from evil.

-It is the Word of God that will keep us from evil or sin.

-When we can keep the Word of God in our hearts, then we will not sin against God.

-As Psalm 119:11 says:

-“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

-If we can live according to the Word of God, then we will be able to reject evil and live a pure life.

-Psalm 119:9 says this:

-“How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.”

-The first letter to the Thessalonians finishes with a blessing:

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

23-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.

24-The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

-What does sanctify mean?

-To sanctify means that God sets us apart to be holy that we would one day be like Christ.

-When we believe in Christ, God saves us from the punishment of sin which is death as well as from the power of sin.

-Sin no longer has any power over us as Christians.

-When we believe in Christ, God also gives us a new heart, and the Holy Spirit comes to live in our new heart.

-God's work in our lives, however, does not end at the time we believe in Christ.

-God continues to work in our lives through His Holy Spirit to change us and to make us like the Lord Jesus.

-Here is an illustration:

-When a builder makes a canoe, he first chooses the right wood.

-By choosing the wood, he sanctifies it or sets it apart.

-The wood, however, will not become a canoe until it is dug out and shaped.

-In the same way, God sets us apart and continues to shape us to make us like the Lord Jesus.

-How long will the Holy Spirit continue to shape us?

-As long as we live on this earth.

-When will the Holy Spirit finish His work in our lives?

-When the Lord Jesus returns to make us to be completely without sin.

-It is the will of God that all Christians will become completely sanctified.

-It is God's work to sanctify us or to make us like the Lord Jesus.

-But we must allow Him to shape us.