

THE GOSPEL OF **HOPE** IN UNCERTAIN TIMES: A FRESH LOOK AT *THESSALONIANS*

"HOW TO LIVE WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF THE KING"
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

The Thessalonians earlier question was prompted by a concern for those who had died trusting Jesus – would they miss the resurrection? In this next section we are not sure why Paul felt it necessary to write about something of which they had “no need” for him to write about – the times and the dates.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1 What is the “Day of the Lord”? and what happens on that day?
2. The two metaphors to describe the arrival of “The Day”, like a thief in the night and like the labor pains of a pregnant woman stir the imagination. How are these two metaphors the same? How are they different?
3. Why might a Christian be afraid of Jesus’ coming? Why might someone who is NOT a Christian NOT be bothered at all concerning the Lord’s return?
4. Review the list of things we should be doing as we anticipate the Day of the Lord; which one speaks the loudest to you at this time in your life?
 - a. Look around you at the people you know well who are not following Jesus. See any differences in the way you are living? If not, there should be!
 - b. Stay awake. Watch. Be alert
 - c. Protect yourself
 - d. Encourage and comfort Christian friends, allow them to do the same for you.
 - e. Somehow, some way communicate with our neighbors, “You are in great danger”

NEXT UP

John Stott writes, “Imagine that you and your family are enjoying their summer holiday. One evening the sun goes down, you draw the curtains and everybody goes to bed. You sleep well too, because the following day you are expecting a visit from the family’s favorite Uncle Bill. But because you are tired you oversleep. In the morning the sun rises as usual but you know nothing about it because the you are still fast asleep and the curtains are drawn. Your oldest daughter wakes early. She gets up and flings open the curtains of the room and the sun streams in. Suddenly there is a knock at the door and it is Uncle Bill. Your daughter is ready to welcome him. She is not taken by surprise, for she is awake alert and in the light. But the rest of you are covered with confusion because you are still asleep and still in the darkness”

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DIFFERENCE MAKER

"Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them." – **John 12:35-36**