

Wake up!

1 Thessalonians 5:1–9

1 Thessalonians 5:1–9 (NKJV)

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. **2** For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. **3** For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. **5** You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. **6** Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. **8** But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Introduction:

One of the most famous quotes attributed to Martin Luther is the “Battle Quote”

Although, it is most likely not a direct quote of him but rather a paraphrase of what he has stated at other times.

The quote comes from a fictional novel that was based on real characters in events fo Luther’s day.

The statement is from a character by the name of Fritz in the year 1526.

“If I profess, with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition, every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christianity. Where the battle rages the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battle-field besides is mere flight and disgrace to him if he flinches at that one point.”

The context and previous sentence is just as profound.

“It is the truth which is assailed in any age which tests our fidelity. It is to *confess* we are called, not merely to *profess*”

I am afraid that in many of the pulpits of America, there is a lot of professing and not confessing.

We are in such a time as this, where the truth of God is under attack like never before and by a very capable and subtle enemy.

While the battle rages outside the church, to many are inside having pink lemonade and sugar cookies, kicking back in there theater chairs with there lattes

The church of America is the Laodicean church that is saturated with lukewarmness and making Jesus sick to His stomach.

There is a lot of sermonizing but not preaching with authority and conviction.

There are a lot of series driven messages but very little clear exposition.

It is all about the practical without the foundational.

We are facing one of the most critical times in the history of the church. One that will test the church of America like never before. Yet at the same time much of America’s pulpits are weak and compromised, non-confrontative and cowardice.

Where are the men of God that will speak the truth at all cost. Where are the churches that are more concerned about the truth and the whole counsel of God than the attendance.

Where are the Pulpits that exposit the Word of God so we can hear the clear Word from God rather than the stories of men.

Paul warned of this in his last letter,

2 Timothy 3:1 (NKJV)

But know this, that in the last days **perilous times** will come:

perilous — difficult to deal with.

20.2 χαλεπός^b, ή, όν: pertaining to one who is inclined to violent and dangerous activity

— ‘dangerous, fierce.’ δαιμονιζόμενοι ... χαλεποὶ λίαν ‘they were demon possessed ... and were very fierce’ Mt 8:28

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 227). New York: United Bible Societies.

Matthew 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed *men*, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.

Other words associated with this are

evil, hard, formidable, injurious, harsh, cruel, hard to bear, painful, grievous, wild, savage,

Only 2 times in the N.T. But Josephus was fond of the word, using it 173 times

times -

καιρός,-οῦ N2M 55-61-70-167-134=487

Gn 1,14; 6,13; 17,21.23.26

time Gn 17,21; *opportunity* 1 Sm 20,12; *occasion*

Ex 8,28; *season* Gn 1,14; *time of prosperity* Nm

14,9; οἱ καιροί *the times, the difficulties* 1 Chr

29,30

εἰς καιρόν *in season, seasonably*

Lust, J., Eynikel, E., & Hauspie, K. (2003). [A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint: Revised Edition](#). Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft: Stuttgart.

will come

① to take place as an event, *be here, be at hand, arrive, come.* 2 Ti 3:1

Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). [A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature](#) (3rd ed., p. 337). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For the time will come when **they** will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for

themselves teachers; ⁴ and **they** will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

It is critical to determine who the “They” are in this text.

Is it the church, or those outside the church?

Looking at the the context

2 Timothy 2:25–3:2 (NKJV)

²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2 Timothy 3:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning

the faith; ⁹ but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

2 Timothy 3:13 (NKJV)

¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV)

⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

According to these verses, it seems that the “They” Paul has in mind are the ones that

1. are in opposition,
2. don't know the truth
3. are taken captive by the devil
4. are men who are lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
5. are learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth
- 6 resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;

7 they are evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse,

Since this is true, Paul told Timothy to

1. correct those who are in opposition,
2. Do the work of the evangelist
3. Preach the Word, I Tim 4:2

All of this is to be done, so that

1 God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

2 *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil

So the “they” in verse

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For the time will come when **they** will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and **they** will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Are lost, inside and outside the church,

They will not **endure**

ανεξουνται

① to regard w. tolerance, endure, bear with, put up with;

Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). [*A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature*](#) (3rd ed., p. 78). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Sound doctrine, is more that Jesus Loves you and wants to forgive you.

It includes everything about God and Salvation
 everything about Creation and Christianity
 everything about Heaven and hell
 Holiness and Habits
 sin and sexuality
 Man and woman
 Marriage and Family

And the Biblical teaching on all of those sets the Christian Church and the faithful pulpit in direct opposition to the World and the liberal bents of evangelicalism

The World and many within evangelicalism will not put up with sound doctrine.

They compromise on Creation and allow evolution

They compromise on Christianity and allow ecumenism

They compromise on Hell and allow for annihilation

They compromise on Holiness and allow
Homosexuality

They Compromise on man and woman and allow
transsexuality

The compromise and redefine marriage and family
and allow cohabitation, fornication and abortion.

We are in that season, NOW, when these sound
doctrines are not put up with.

Faithful churches are quickly being labeled “hate
speech”

Already as I preach this message there are
churches and faithful ministries that are being
targeted for teaching on these subjects. The are
being removed from platforms, banished from
facebook, not allowed to sell there books on
Amazon.

This will get worse.

They are emboldened by their sin and the support
they have and sadly

They are empowered by the silence of the church..

There are large populations of people, both political
in the American culture and religious, within the

Baptist and Presbyterians and other denominations who would love the faithful churches to go away and the bold preaching to be stopped.

And to be clear, they are fine with the 1000s of churches and pulpits that never address any of these sound doctrines. They are happy to have you as long as you keep your mouth shut. And many within evangelicalism are happy to oblige.

I had the opportunity at this last conference to talk to Rich at the Alpha and Omega ministries through which Dr. James White teaches, and to thank him for their bold and accurate forecast of what the church would be facing. I told him that I was astounded at how accurate they were in what they said we would deal with as churches, from the LGBTQ agenda, to the social Justice and CRT movement and the rising tide of accusations of Hate Speech.

Surprisingly, Rich said that they cannot take credit for this because they learned it from Michael O Fallon of Soveriegn Nations.

I had heard him a number of times, on the Social Justice issues and found him, extremely intelligent and insightful.

Before the conference ended, I ran into Michael and told him how I appreciated what he had said in alerting the church to the dangers ahead for the church.

At that moment, he startled me with his response.

He said basically that what we have seen is nothing compared to what is coming. He told me that within the next ten years it will cost me everything.

This reminds me a time a little over 130 years ago in London, when Charles Spurgeon was facing one of the most difficult times of his ministry. It was four years before he died and many believe it is what led to his death. It has been called the Downgrade Controversy.

Ian Murray wrote the book "The Forgotten Spurgeon" that addresses the Downgrade controversy and more. It's called the Forgotten Spurgeon because so many have forgotten the controversy that surrounded his life. His was one that was filled with it. He was not one to leave threats to the church alone, but rather would speak out and write about them in a forceful manner.

The Downgrade Controversy was named so because he saw the churches cave to modernism,

or liberalism as getting on the down grade which meant there was little hope for return or correction.

The Truth or faithfulness to the truth was seen as a pinnacle which was very easy to slip off , and when you did, you began on the down grade at breakneck speed with little hope of recovery.

Spurgeon knew that if the direction of the church wasn't corrected and put back on the "up line" it would be destroyed. He confronted the problem with persistent courage, and as a result he was censured by the Baptist Union and as a result he left the Union. The greatest threat to the Baptist Union was not the Modernism or the Liberalism, but was the fact that the majority of the ministers agreed with Spurgeon, but instead of speaking up and having the courage to stand with Spurgeon, kept silent and never said a word.

His prediction came true, the influence of Modernism and liberalism because of the cowardice of the pastors , eventually left whole denominations in ruins and church pews empty.

Brothers and sisters, This is where we are today. The church is on the downgrade and it is flying down at break neck speed.

It is fueled and propelled not by gravity alone

but by

1. Social Justice

2. Critical Race Theory

3. A decentralization of the Pulpit ministry of local church

4. A deemphasis of the assembly of God's people in corporate worship

5. A degradation of the priority of the Lord's supper

6. An emphasis of music as the major means of worship

7. An influence and adoption of the world's philosophy of human sexuality

8. A Redefining of the role of women in the church

9. The removal of Prayer and Scripture Reading from Public Worship.

10. The silence of the church on the sins of our culture, such as Abortion, Euthanasia, Fornication, Homosexuality, Transgenderism

11. The Redefining of the roles of men and women in marriage and the family.

12. The capitulation of the vast majority of our families to surrender our children to the government

schools so secular humanist can fill the minds of our children with godless philosophy.

13. The rapidly declining belief in the total sufficiency of Scripture

14. The emphasis on the needs of man in worship rather than the glory of God.

The list could go on and on.

Brothers and Sisters,

This is no time to be asleep. No more time for slumber. Gone are the days of a society with a Christian world view. What this country was built on has been systematically destroyed. We are living with a post-constitutional tyrannical government.

You are neck deep in paganism. Full blown, God denying, Christ hating, lawless paganism.

When the Transportation Secretary of the United States of America, who married his Homosexual partner adopts 2 children and needs 2 months away for paternity leave....you are full blown pagan.

When the House of Representatives of the United States of America can vote to approve the killing of babies up to the point of birth for any reason....you are in full godless paganism.

We are not the county of 50 years ago, in fact we are not the country we were 2 years ago. Things are rapidly changing and

You need to wake up and save yourself and your family before it is too late.

Quit dabbling in the sewer filled mud puddles of secular humanism and protect your family.

If you are listening to me today and you attend a local church that does not preach the whole counsel of God and/or compromised on these issues I have brought up.....GET OUT. Remove your family from that place and find a church that honors God and his Word and preaches and teaches it with authority and Conviction.

If you have your children in public schools that are clearly subverting everything you teach them at church and home.... GET THEM OUT. Do what ever it takes to teach them yourself or get help doing it. Don't let the evil system it has become have them.

Hitler knew how he could rule the world, it was one generation away. He wanted the children so he could teach them.

Do you think the devil is asleep. Are you so naive as to think that what they are learning from there

teachers and the peers at school will have no affect on their faith.

WAKE UP.

You say, but pastor, its not that bad here....

Really?

Do you realize that just down the road from here there is an elementary school that is teaching children in the 2nd grade things that are so sexually explicit that I would not talk to any of adults about it in this church.

Do you realize that there are public schools that allow sexually explicit material in there libraries that teach pedophilia and homosexuality with pictures...

And you will send your daughters to a school full of young men with smartphones that are looking at porn on a regular basis.

This is not made up and this is not a joke. It is real. It is happening now and I can document every bit of it.

In fact, I thought of having some of it as foot notes for my notes, but I decided not to just incase some young eyes got hold of it. There is so much of this happing right now that I could fill hundreds of pages with it.

You are playing Russian Roulette with your children's minds and souls only this time the gun does not have 5 empty slots and one bullet, rather it is 5 bullets and one empty slot.

One of the most troubling signs I see in the church beyond all the things I have already mentioned is how many Christians have their heads in the sand. They know nothing about what is going on and even worse are the ones that know what is going on and say nothing or do nothing.

I've seen video after video of mothers standing fighting for the purity of the teaching at school boards, fighting perversion, fighting CRT and social justice, men with dresses in women's bathrooms.

But where are the Fathers where are the Christian men.....Where are the Christians.

I wonder if we were living in the time of Nero in Rome, would Nero have any Christians to burn or to wrap in animal skins to be torn apart for entertainment.

I would think, he might have a hard time finding any. Most Christians don't say anything clear enough to let the world know who they are.

We need to WAKE UP

Be alert, Be sober minded. The days are evil and getting worse.

God know we needed to prodded every now and then, because we so apt to nod off and take a little nap. A little slumber, a little sleep, a little folding fo the hands.

Thats why so many times God tell to wake up and watch. BE ALERT

Matthew 24:42 (NKJV)

⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Matthew 25:13 (NKJV)

¹³ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Mark 13:35–37 (NKJV)

³⁵ Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

Mark 14:38 (NKJV)

³⁸ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.”

Luke 12:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them.

Luke 12:40–41 (NKJV)

⁴⁰ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Luke 21:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Acts 20:31 (NKJV)

³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)

² Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

2 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV)

⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

1 Peter 5:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith,

knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Revelation 3:2 (NKJV)

² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

Revelation 16:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Romans 13:11–14 (NKJV)

¹¹ And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of

light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–9 (NKJV)

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God did

not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

I. The Encouragement

II. The Exhortation

III. The Escape

I. The Encouragement

5:1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

περι δε των χρονων και των καιρων

chronos: time

Original Word: χρόνος, ου, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: chronos

5550 χρόνος – time (in general), especially viewed in sequence (a "succession of moments"); time in duration in the physical-space world, sovereignly apportioned by God to each person.

5550 /χρόνος ("time in sequence, duration") especially expresses time quantitatively

kairos: time, season

Original Word: καιρός, οὐ, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: kairos

time (indefinite) n. — an indefinite period; often marked by specific attributes or activities.

2540 kairós – time as opportunity. 2540 /kairós ("opportune time") is derived from kara ("head") referring to things "coming to a head" to take full-advantage of. 2540 (kairós) is "the suitable time, the right moment (e.g. Soph., El. 1292), a favorable moment" (DNNT, 3, 833).

Why did he not need to write regarding the chronology of time and the events of that time?

² For you yourselves know **perfectly** that the **day of the Lord** so comes as a thief in the night.

perfectly akribós: with exactness

Original Word: ἀκριβῶς

Part of Speech: Adverb; Adverb, Comparative

Transliteration: akribós

Phonetic Spelling: (ak-ree-boce')

Definition: with exactness

Usage: carefully, exactly, strictly, distinctly.

199 akribós (from akribes, "the high point, extreme," see 195 /akríbeia, "highly accurate") – properly, extremely accurate, very exact; "more (very) accurate"

because researched down to the finest detail ("factually precise").

This root (akrib-) refers to gaining exact information with the highest level of accuracy ("exactness") and is acquired by probing investigation to provide a comprehensive circumspect (precise) view in strict adherence to the facts.

day of the Lord— this has historical significance in the times that God has judged and it will have eschatological significance when the Lord returns to Judge.

Isaiah 13:6–9 (NKJV)

⁶ Wail, for the day of the Lord *is* at hand!
It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

⁷ Therefore all hands will be limp,
Every man's heart will melt,

⁸ And they will be afraid.
Pangs and sorrows will take hold of *them*;
They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth;
They will be amazed at one another;
Their faces *will be like* flames.

⁹ Behold, the day of the Lord comes,
Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,
To lay the land desolate;

And He will destroy its sinners from it.

Joel 1:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Alas for the day!

For the day of the Lord *is* at hand;

It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.

Amos 5:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ *Is* not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light?

Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?

Joel 2:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ ...

For strong *is the One* who executes His word.

For the day of the Lord *is* great and very terrible;

Who can endure it?

2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

3 For when **they say, “Peace and safety!”** then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

The words need not describe idyllic times but arrogant or self-deceived people. They are like the prophets and priests who disputed Jeremiah’s warnings of impending destruction and cried “peace, peace” when in fact Babylon was about to destroy the city (Jer 6:14)

These are people who tell themselves they are secure and in control. They are not expecting God to invade their world.

Martin, D. M. (1995). [*1, 2 Thessalonians*](#) (Vol. 33, p. 160). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

I don’t want to read too much into this, because Paul may just simply have in mind a false sense of security.

But that would speak of relative Peace with little stress or concern.

The moral demands for the church have been silenced

The extreme absolutes of the Christian faith have been removed.

The Christian church has been Persecuted and jailed. The churches have been closed, at least the ones that cause all the fuss and trouble.

The Preaching of impending judgement is no longer heard.

Its Peace and Security.... no worries of that GOD coming to judge our sin.

But then,

3 For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

sudden

aiphnidios: sudden

Original Word: αἰφνίδιος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: aiphnidios

Phonetic Spelling: (aheef-nid'-ee-os)

Definition: sudden

Usage: unexpected, sudden.

Luke 21:34–35 (NKJV)

³⁴ “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

destruction

olethros: destruction, death

Original Word: ὄλεθρος, ου, ὄ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: olethros

Phonetic Spelling: (ol'-eth-ros)

Definition: destruction, death

Usage: ruin, doom, destruction, death.

3639 ὄλεθρος (from ollymi/"destroy") – properly, ruination with its full, destructive results (LS).

3639 /όλεθρος ("ruination") however does not imply "extinction" (annihilation). Rather it emphasizes the consequent loss that goes with the complete "undoing."

2 Thessalonians 1:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

comes

ephistémi: to set upon, set up, to stand upon, be present

Original Word: ἐφίστημι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: ephistémi

Phonetic Spelling: (ef-is'-tay-mee)

Definition: to set upon, set up, to stand upon, be present

Usage: I stand by, am urgent, befall one (as of evil), am at hand, impend.

as labor pains upon a pregnant woman

This refers to the suddenness of labor pains and the progression of labor pains. They are not, then they are and when they begin they progressively get worse until the birth of the baby.

Matthew 24:8 (NKJV)

⁸ **All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.**

3 For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. **And they shall not (ou me) escape.**

You might wonder how this can be Encouragement with all the talk of judgment, the Day of the Lord and not escaping.

well, verse 4

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. **5** You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

are not in darkness, both spiritually and intellectually. You are alive and not Blind

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

John 3:19–20 (NKJV)

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

John 12:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” ...

Acts 26:18– (NKJV)

¹⁸ to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

light refers to life, and purity and truth

darkness to death, and evil and lies.

We have life and holiness in Christ and we know the truth.

We know where this world came from and where it is going.

We know that sin is evil and will be judged

We know lies are from the devil and truth is in Christ.

We have the right world view with which we are able to interpret everything.

We know who came to save sinners and who is coming to judge sinners.

I. The Encouragement

II. The Exhortation

⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

Therefore let us not sleep,

Therefore— since the Lord is coming in Judgement...

This is the point I want to make. But you may be thinking, that this has to do with the Second coming and not the present moment we live in.

Oh, but how wrong you are. The New Testament church lived in light of the Second coming. They eagerly anticipated the Second coming. They expected the Second Coming. In fact the

Thessalonian Christians were so eager and ready for His return that they had been misled by some false information that they thought they had missed it all together. Some had quit working and became busybodies, either because they thought it was imminent or that they had missed it.

2 Peter 3:12–14 (NKJV)

¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

The point is that we want to remain alert and watchful and sober, not just for the Second Coming of Christ but because of the Second Coming of Christ and we want to be found pleasing and faithful in His sight.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

Three things Paul wants us to do in verse 6

1. Not sleep
2. Watch
3. Be sober.

1. Not sleep- He does not means physical sleep.

He uses this as a metaphor to indifference and being unaware of what is going on around you.

When you are asleep, you are not aware of your surrounding, who is near you, what is be talked about. You are in your own little dream world.

This is the world we live in. The majority are asleep and completely unaware of whats coming. Its about their dreams and visions, not what reality is.

Paul wants us awake, fully alert, fully conscious of all that is going on around us so that we are prepared and ready for the attacks of the evil one.

He wants us to read deep and think long

He wants us to pray constantly and Test all things.

He want us to WAKE UP.

2. Watch Present Subjunctive — —continually
grégoreó: to be awake, to watch

Original Word: γρηγορέω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: grégoreó

Phonetic Spelling: (gray-gor-yoo'-o)

Definition: to be awake, to watch

Usage: (a) I am awake (in the night), watch, (b) I am watchful, on the alert, vigilant.

1127 grēgoreúō – literally, "stay awake";
 (figuratively) be vigilant (responsible, watchful).

γρηγορέω, late pres., formed from pf. ἐγρήγορα (q.v.), *to be or become fully awake*, *watch*, LxxNe.7.3, Ev.Matt.24.43, al., Ach.Tat.4.17; ἐπί τισι LxxBa. 2.9; ἐπὶ τὰς πόλεις ib.Je.5.6
 Liddell, H. G., Scott, R., Jones, H. S., & McKenzie, R. (1996). [*A Greek-English lexicon*](#) (p. 360). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

So it is not so much looking for something or like watching something but rather to be on alert staying awake. fully aware fo what if going on around you.

You may be thinking all I need is me and my bible and my family.

But you need to be alert and awake, and know what is going on in the church, in your culture, in the schools and the government. This is the way the devil gains a foot hold

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Some of you need to wake up and be aware of your surrounding. Many of you need to rethink where we are and if you want to send you sons and daughters to the university to get reprogrammed. Yale and Harvard aren't pastor shoots any more!!!

You need to rethink the news sources you read and listen to. You need to be aware that “everyone calling themselves evangelical ain't evangelical.”

3. Be sober.

néphó: to be sober, to abstain from wine

Original Word: νήφω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: néphó

Phonetic Spelling: (nay'-fo)

Definition: to be sober, to abstain from wine

Usage: (lit: I am sober), I am calm (vigilant), circumspect.

3525 *nēphō* – properly, to be sober (not drunk), not intoxicated; (figuratively) free from illusion, i.e. from the intoxicating influences of sin (like the impact of selfish passion, greed, etc.).

3525 /*nēphō* ("be sober, unintoxicated") refers to having presence of mind (clear judgment), enabling someone to be temperate (self-controlled). **3525** / *nēphō* ("uninfluenced by intoxicants") means to have "one's wits (faculties) about them," which is the opposite of being irrational.

He's not talking about staying sober from drinking alcohol.. that is understood. Its not like all the Thessalonians are lying in there streets plastered.

The point is free from influence from without., clarity of mind, self controlled.

We are to uninfluenced by the world, uninfluenced by the ideology of the godless culture.

To often, the world and its thinkings has gained access to the church, not from the back door but from the front door. We brought it in.

1 Peter 1:13–15 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is

to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct,

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Paul reminds us of the sobering reality of the lost world.....

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

The lost who are dead in sin, live in a perpetual state of darkness. They walk in it, live in it, converse in it. educated themselves in it, provide for there families in it and love it.

Their world view is permeated by it. There philosophy is integrated with it. and their goal is to perpetuate it.

It is the the life and love of the lost... darkness.

I. The Encouragement

II. The Exhortation

III. The Escape

We are to remain awake, and alert and conscious of all around us. being uninfluenced by the world and looking forward to our deliverance from this evil place.

⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on (Aorist Part. having put on) the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation
breastplate protected the soldiers heart and bowels.

Mind and emotions and passions

Helmet - protects the head, and thoughts of discouragement and despondency

the helmet is the hope of salvation

not hope in maybe it will happen but expectancy

elpis: expectation, hope

Original Word: ἐλπίς, ἴδος, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: elpis

Phonetic Spelling: (el-pece')

Definition: expectation, hope

Usage: hope, expectation, trust, confidence.

1680 elpís (from elpō, "to anticipate, welcome") – properly, expectation of what is sure (certain); hope.

hope of salvation not past salvation, but future salvation, future deliverance, further escape.

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath,
but to obtain salvation through our Lord
Jesus Christ,

While the world has the promise of sure destruction from which none will escape. We have the promise of deliverance

2 Peter 3:7–9 (NKJV)

7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack

concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

While we are here, and while the Lord tarries, We need wake up and save our families and our churches and then and an only then is if possible for the culture and the country to be saved.

Our duties are too

1. Pray. Pray without ceasing
2. Proclaim- the gospel to every creature
3. Preach — the whole counsel of God and stop with the therapeutic preaching
4. Practice — the faith with all its holiness
5. Prepare — for persecution and isolation.

David Wells wrote these words, "Today, the evangelical world is bleeding. We have lived off the accumulated capital of those who work so hard in postwar years and we have not renewed it. 51 years ago, Harold John Ockenga address the national Association of Evangelicals when it was very much

in its infancy. He spoke of the crisis in western civilization and of the responsibilities evangelicals had. Let me quote from his address; "this nation in its maturity, is passing through a crisis which is enmeshing western civilization. Confusion exist on every hand we are living a very difficult and bewildering time, but few people realize what tremendous change we are undergoing, the hour has arrived when the people of this nation must think deeply or be damned. We must recognize that we are standing at the cross roads and that there are only two ways that lie open before us. One is the road of the rescue of western civilization by a re-emphasis on the revival of evangelical Christianity. The other is a return to the dark ages of heathendom, which powerful force is emerging in every phase of our lives today.

David Well quoted these words in 1995, which means it was spoken, 76 years ago.

Oh how far we have descended.

May God had mercy on this Nation and may He Revive and Reform His church.