

Home Group Helps

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4

Living in the Light of His Return: The Day of the Lord

I. The Timing of the Day of the Lord (v.1) – Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

II. The Suddenness of the Day of the Lord (v.2-3a) – ² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. ³ While they are saying, “Peace and safety!”

III. The Destruction of the Day of the Lord (v.3b) – then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

IV. The Preparation for the Day of the Lord (v.4) – ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief;

1. Launching Question(s):

- Have you ever had a conversation with a non-believer about the coming judgment of God? How did the conversation go?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Why is it that non-believers deceive themselves into thinking that they live in “peace and safety” (v.3) and need not concern themselves with God’s coming judgments?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- What is the Day of the Lord according to both Old Testament (Amos 5:18-20; Ezek. 30:3) and New Testament sources (Matt. 24:37-39; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 2 Peter 3:10)?
- What are two illustrations of the suddenness and eventuality of the coming of the Day of the Lord found in this passage?
- Paul’s emphasis seems to be informing the Thessalonians of the coming Day of the Lord so that they will be ready for it. How does a Christian faithfully prepare themselves for the coming of the Day of the Lord?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- How might Paul’s explanation of the Day of the Lord have served to encourage the persecuted Thessalonian Christians?
- How does an understanding of the Day of the Lord serve to encourage you in the midst of your difficulties?

5. Application Question(s):

- How might focusing on the coming Day of the Lord make your life different this week?