

Notes for 1 Thessalonians chapter 5:1-11

Reference	Doctrine	Implication	Cross References	Notes
1 Thess. 5:1-3	Jesus will return unexpectedly	In chapter 4 Paul concluded: “Don’t be concerned about the dead.” Now he goes on to offer advice for how living believers can prepare for the day of the Lord which will come unexpectedly. No one knows when that day will come (Matthew 24:36).	v.1 - Acts 1:7-8 v.2 - Matthew 24:42-44; Luke 21:34 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3 v.3 - Mark 13:28-37; Luke 17:26-30; Isaiah 21:3; Hebrew 2:1-4	“times and the seasons” - used also in Acts 1:7 by Jesus. “The Day of the Lord” - is used throughout the Old and New Testaments: Amos 5:18; Isaiah 13:6; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Peter 3:10 κλεπτης (klepto) - “thief”
1 Thess. 5:4-5	Light and Darkness	Paul draws a contrast between believers and unbelievers here: as different as light and darkness.	Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Romans 13:11-13; 1 John 2:8; Acts 26:17-18	“The day” - the Greek includes the article “the” here, pointing back to “the day of the Lord” and to the importance of this historic day.
1 Thess. 5:6-8	Be alert and ready for Jesus’ return	Those who sleep and are drunk are not aware of what is going on around them. We know what the day will bring and prepare eagerly.	Luke 12:36-40; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 5:8-10	γρηγορευω (gregoreuo) - “watch” in contrast to “sleep” νηφω (nepho) - “to be sober” in contrast to “drunk”
1 Thess. 5:8	Christian Defenses	The Lord provides us with faith, love and hope as our armor to protect us from sin and the devil.	Isaiah 59:17; Ephesians 6:11-18 1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 Thess. 1:3	πιστις (pistis) - “faith” αγαπη (agape) - “love” ελπις (elpis) - “hope”
1 Thess. 5:9-10	Jesus desires not our destruction but our salvation	It was not God’s plan for any human being to go to hell (<i>Matthew 25:41; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9</i>), but fervently desires our salvation which he has accomplished through Jesus.	John 3:36; Colossians 3:6-7; Romans 1:18-19; 2 Thessalonians. 2:13-14; Romans 9:1-33 Matthew 20:28; John 10:11,15; Romans 5:6-8; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15;	τιθημι (tithemi) - “put, place, set; to fix, establish” καθευδω (katheudo) - “sleep” different from κοιμαω (koimao) - “sleep” used in 1 Thessalonians 4:13,14,15.
1 Thess. 5:11	Christian encouragement	We are to “encourage” and “build up” one another with the Good news of Jesus Christ. We worship together, pray for one another, and stand beside each other as we await “The Day of the Lord.”	1 Thessalonians 4:18 Romans 14:19; Philippians 2:1-4; Colossians 3:12-15	παρακαλω (parakaleo) - to call to one's side; to encourage, strengthen οικοδομεω (oikodomeo) - to build; to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace