

8/16/20

Recap of last week's message (8/9/20 - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11):

1. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 the Thessalonians were concerned about those believers who had died before Jesus' return. In 5:1-11 Paul's attention turns to the living. He seems to be saying to them be more concerned with how they are living in light of Jesus' return. Paul's focus changes from "comfort" (4:13-18) to "challenge" (5:1-11). In 5:1-3 he addresses the unprepared (i.e., unbelievers), showing that unbelievers are spiritually blind and unprepared for the day of God's judgment. In 5:4-11 he addresses the expectant (i.e., believers) showing that the believer's lifestyle should reflect his/her expectancy of the Lord's return. That fact that they will not face the wrath of God in the Tribulation is not an invitation to lethargy in their spiritual lives.

2. The topic of chapter five is the "Day of the Lord," a time period which begins after the Rapture of the Church, and ends at the conclusion of the Millennium and includes the Tribulation (see Revelation 6-19 for a vivid description of that time). It will come suddenly (like a thief or labor pains) and will be a surprise to those on earth at the time (unbelievers, since believers will have been raptured before it begins).

3. Believers must be alert and self-controlled, not careless about spiritual things, spiritually dull, spiritually and morally indifferent. We must live "with eternity's values in view."

-Will we be living for the world's values or eternity's values when He comes for us?

-Will the rapture interrupt our plans, goals, agendas or consummate our desires?

- "I have felt like working three times as hard since I came to understand that my Lord is coming again." (D.L. Moody)

- "There is much in our religious life today that is cheap and superficial....It takes time to be holy, but who takes time?...Christians are too busy even with good things, and the best thing—to know God—gets away....I you are too busy to find time for god, you are too busy." (Vance Havner)