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| **1 Thessalonians: Encouragement for a Life of Steadfast Faith**  Chapter 5, verses 1-11 |  |

1. Read (see “Short Guide for Bible Study” handout for tips)
2. Recognize and Research
   1. Trace Paul’s flow of thought in this passage (see diagram worksheet)
   2. What does Paul mean by “Times and Epochs.” How does this connect to “the Day of the Lord?
   3. Who is the “They” in verse 3? Also, who is the “you” in verse four? Why does understanding these pronouns matter?
   4. How does Paul contrast those in verse 3 and those in verses 4-5?
   5. What does the “So then” signify in verse 6?
   6. How does Paul modify “let us be Sober” in verse 8. (hint: What is the preceding participle phrase?)
   7. What is the “Therefore” therefore in verse 11?
3. Relate and Reflect
   1. Where else in Scripture is the phrase “times and Epochs” used? Would they have been familiar with this phrase? Why did they not need more teaching on this topic?
   2. What do the OT and the NT say about “the Day of The Lord”?
      1. What Does Paul mean that DOL will come like a thief in the Night?
      2. What Does Paul mean by the DOL coming like labor pains?
      3. What kind of destruction will happen in verse 3? Is Paul talking about annihilation? Back up answer with Scripture?
   3. What does Paul mean by being of night and Darkness? What does it mean to spiritually live in darkness? How does Paul know that these Christians are not in darkness based on the rest of this letter?
   4. What does it mean to be characterized by “Son’s of Light” and “sons of Day”? Where else in the NT are metaphors like this used to describe our new position in Christ?
   5. In Contrast to sleeping, Paul says we should be alert and sober. What does he mean by this? Where else in the NT are these descriptions of alertness and soberness used?
   6. In verse 8, Paul wants the Thessalonians to put on spiritual armor. How do you do this in real life? Where else in Paul’s writings does he teach on the responsibility of a Christian to armor themselves.
   7. In verse 9, Paul says that God has not destined us for wrath. Where else in this letter does Paul also talk about God’s wrath not being poured out on Christians? What kind of wrath is he talking about?
4. Respond
   1. What is the importance of understanding Eschatology based on this passage along with other biblical teachings of the future?
   2. What steps are you taking to live a life of spiritual “alertness” and “Soberness.”
   3. How should we think about evangelism knowing that those without Christ are awaiting destruction?
   4. Does your understanding of the “Day of the Lord” motivate you to encourage and build up others? What are you doing to remind yourself to continually focus on the spiritual welfare of others?
   5. Other areas of personal application from these verses?