

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

But you, brethren, are not in darkness,
 that the day would overtake you like a thief;
 for you are all sons of light and sons of day.
We are not of night nor of darkness;
 so then let us not sleep as others do,
 but let us be alert and sober.
 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night,
 and those who get drunk get drunk at night.
 But since we are of the day, let us be sober,
 having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
 and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.
 For God has not destined us for wrath,
 but for obtaining salvation
 through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who died for us,
 so that whether we are awake or asleep,
 we will live together with Him.
Therefore encourage one another
and build up one another,
 just as you also are doing.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Thessalonians 4-5 in one sitting.

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❖ Day 2

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11.

1. Recall verses 1-3. How do those inform this section of vv.4-11?
2. What function does the word 'but' serve in this section? (v.4)
3. Why might Paul use the word brethren in v.4?
4. Note the reference to a thief in v.4? (see also v. 2) What does this imagery tell us about the Lord's return? How will the Lord's return affect the wicked vs. the righteous?
5. Note the contrast between light and darkness in v.5. What does it mean to be 'sons of light' or 'sons of day'?
6. What does Paul mean by sleep, in verses 6 and 7?
7. What imagery is used in v.8?
8. Look back at 1:3 and compare that to 5:8. What emphasis is the author making with this continued theme?
9. Why might Paul distinguish hope from faith and love, in v.8? (see Gal. 5:6)

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❖ Day 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11 again.

10. Read Isaiah 59:17. How might this scripture have informed Paul's writing?
11. Why might Paul offer a reminder of their salvation in v9?
12. Read 5:9 in connection to 1:10. What does this text reveal about God's wrath?
13. Verse 10 further modifies 9. What do we learn about the atonement through this verse?
14. How does Paul use sleep in v.10? How is that usage different than v.8?
15. How should they be moved to respond in light of Paul's encouragement? (v.11)
16. What function does the phrase "just as you also are doing" serve in this last statement? (v11)
17. Summarize the passage in one sentence.
18. What are you prompted to do in response to this passage?
19. How have you been encouraged to think differently about the coming of the Lord?