

LESSON 7: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-28

We Beseech You!

1. Why do you think Paul writes “Now about dates and times” (v. 1)? What does the metaphor “come like a thief in the night” (5:2) mean? (See Matthew 24:43; Luke 12:39.) Why would people be saying “Peace and safety” just prior to the day of the Lord (see Jeremiah 6:8-19)? Where will believers be when the “day of the Lord” comes (vv. 1-3)?
2. What is the connection between being “sons of the light” and not being surprised by the coming of the Day (vv. 4-8)? Why does Paul mention self-control twice (vv. 6,8), and what is he getting at by speaking of getting drunk at night (v. 7)? What’s his point in these verses? (See Titus 2:11-14.)
3. In verse 8, Paul speaks how we are to put on “faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet.” (Compare Ephesians 6:10-17.) What does this mean to you? How does one obey this?
4. In verse 9, Paul writes that “God did not appoint us to suffer wrath.” Does this mean that he doesn’t get angry at us? (Read Psalm 51.) And yet for all this, God appointed us not “to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” For what purpose did Jesus die (v. 10)? What does this mean to you – not just intellectually, but spiritually, emotionally? (Finally, to what is Paul now referring in verse 10 when he speaks of being asleep? Is this a different sense than in vv. 1-8?)
5. What issue or situation do you think Paul might be responding to in verses 11-12? Of whom is he speaking, and how are they to be held in high regard?

6. How are we to treat the four categories of “bruised reeds” listed in verse 13? List the five directives of Christian living given us in verses 15-19. Are we actually commanded to “be joyful always”? What does this mean to you? What is your definition of joy? What is joy to look like in our lives? Finally, why is it important for a Christian to find something in every situation for which to be thankful?

7. What do you think Paul means when he warns the Thessalonians not to “put out the Spirit’s fire” (v. 19)? How are we to apply the directives of verses 19-20 in our individual and congregational life today?

8. Why does Paul speak of God as “the God of peace” (v. 23). What is the work that he will accomplish in those he saves in Christ Jesus? What part of us does this salvation affect? Who is the “faithful” one referred to in verse 24, and what will he do? (See Psalm 22:27-31.)

9. What do you take from the fact that Paul asks for prayer (v. 25)? And what is the significance of the blessing (the benediction) of grace that he bestows upon his readers (v. 28)?