

GETTING READY FOR CHRIST'S COMING

Introduction: In chapter five Paul concludes his practical instructions and exhortations to the Thessalonian church. In view of Christ's soon coming, Paul exhorts them to live soberly and watchfully (5:1-11). Paul then summarizes specific areas of Christian responsibility in which these Thessalonian Christians are to be growing. First of all, every Christian is responsible for personal holiness, but after that he should encourage his brethren to live holy lives. Paul's desire for the Thessalonian congregation was that they be a vibrant, healthy church, building each other up in Jesus Christ.

Lesson Aim: Learn how every believer can contribute to the spiritual life of his local church.

Verse: "Comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also you do" (1 Thess 5:11).

Lesson Outline and Questions to Answer**I. Be Watchful – 5:1-11**

1. What will the unsaved people be saying when the Day of the Lord Is about to come? 5:3
2. Why will this day of judgment not come to the Christian? 5:4-5
3. What should Christians do in light of the growing darkness before the Rapture? 5:6
4. How should Christians arm themselves as this day of judgment draws closer? 5:8
 - a.
 - b.
5. Why will believers be spared from the Tribulation? 5:9; Eph 5:25-27

II. Be Respectful – 5:12-13

6. What are pastors doing that should earn the respect of their flock? 5:12
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

III. Be Helpful – 5:14-15

7. What kind of help can Christians give to certain types of people? 5:14-15
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
8. What attitudes should Christians always display? 5:16-17
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

IV. Be Careful – 5:19-22

9. Explain "Quench not the Spirit"? 5:19
10. How were they to handle prophecies and other gifts of the Spirit? 5:20-22
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

V. Be Truthful – 5:23-24

11. What was Paul's goal and prayer for the believers? 5:23
12. What attribute of God gave Paul confidence that He would answer his prayer? 5:24