



# I and II Thessalonians

## Lesson 4 Chapter 5

*Although Paul couldn't stay very long in Thessalonica, he did teach the small church there everything he could in the time he had. One topic he covered thoroughly was the events surrounding the return of the Lord, which the Lord Himself had promised, and the judgment that would precipitate it. The timing of the rapture and the ultimate return of Christ has been a mystery that many have tried to unravel since Christ promised it. Even Christ admitted He didn't know when it was to be because it was up to the Father alone (Matthew 24:36). But He did give detailed descriptions on what signs must take place before those final events. It seems that according to the Lord's will, there will remain unknowns concerning His second coming*

*similar to the unknowns about His first coming. His first coming was identified as a mystery until, in the fullness of time, the details that were prophesied became understood. Similarly, it seems that there will be details regarding His second coming which are prophesied but won't be fully understood until the right time. But Paul wants them to focus on preparedness not the specific times of the coming events. By faith, His followers were to be declaring the gospel and preparing for His return in every time and in every generation. But false information or understanding of the signs that were given could lead to a falling away or crippling of their faith; therefore, Paul wanted them to fully understand the information they had been given.*

### READ CHAPTER 5



*The phrase "times or seasons" or "times and epochs" NAS is plural and refers to periods of time and succession of events that would take place before the Lord's final return. They had been fully taught by Paul about this impending event, and so he was reminding them of what they already knew. As we will understand in 2 Thessalonians, it seems they had been hearing or experiencing some things that caused them to question what Paul had previously taught them.*

1. *What did he expect them to know about the Lord's return? Vs. 1-2 see also Luke 12:39-40. What do you think that means?*

2. *What does Peter say about that day in 2 Peter 3:10-14, and how should believers respond to the truth that it is coming?*

3. *The phrase “the day of the Lord” is referred to 19 times in the Old Testament and identifies several events in Israel’s history by that term. It is also used by the prophets in referencing God’s final judgment at the end of time. The phrase is always identifying an extreme act of judgment by God. From the following verses give some of the terms used to describe the details of those events.*

*Isaiah 13:6*

*Isaiah 13:9*

*Jeremiah 46:10*

*Joel 1:15*

*Joel 2:1-2*

*Joel 2:11*

*Joel 2:30-31*

*Zephaniah 1:14-17*

4. *What message was given by the Old Testament false prophets regarding their day of the Lord judgment that will be the same during the end time day of the Lord judgment that Paul is referring to? 1 Thessalonians 5:3; Jeremiah 6:14, 8:11 and 14:13-14; Ezekiel 13:10. Why do you think they tell this lie and why would some believe it?*

5. *What two reasons does Paul give in 5:4, 5, and 9 to assure these believers that they will not experience the day of the Lord judgment?*



*The Greek word for “darkness” is skotos and is spoken of persons in a state of moral darkness, wicked men under the influence of Satan. The word “light” is phos and is used to identify moral and spiritual light which includes moral goodness, purity, and holiness.*

6. *According to Ephesians 4:17-24, why do people choose to walk in darkness, and why don't believers walk in darkness? See also John 3:19-21*
  
7. *What characteristics should be evident in those who are aware of the coming judgment? 5:6-8*
  
8. *How are we to use the previous warnings Paul gives to help each other stay faithful? 5:11 What does that look like in everyday life?*
  
9. *What two things does Paul request in their treatment of their leaders? Vs. 12-13 Why would that be important to Paul?*



*The word “instruction” in vs. 12 and the word “admonish” in vs. 13 are the same in the Greek. The word is noutheteo and is especially said of the soldier who does not remain in his rank and file and then of people who will not conform to civil regulations; then generally disorderly. Here the apostle alludes to those members of the Thessalonian church who, instead of applying themselves to the duties of their calling, had given themselves up to an unregulated and unsteady nature and to idleness.*

*~Hebrew/Greek Key Word Study Bible*

10. *Just as the church is to respond correctly to the leadership that admonishes or instructs them to maintain proper behavior that exhibits Christ, they were to admonish others that stepped outside the parameters of “living in peace with one another” as stated in vs. 13. Identify the 4 groups Paul refers to in vs. 14, and what response the church was to give to these people.*

Response

Behavior

1.

2.

3.

4.

11. *What is always to be the motive when dealing with others’ shortcomings? Vs. 15*

12. *Paul ends his letter with 8 general commands for the behavior of the church. Identify each below:*

*Vs. 16*

*Vs. 17*

*Vs. 18*

*Vs. 19*

*Vs. 20*

*Vs. 21*

*Vs. 21b*

*Vs. 22*

13. *What is Paul’s final prayer for them? Vs. 23*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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