

Series: Our Hope (5/20/17)

Title: A Thief in the Night

Text: (1 Thes 5:1-11)

Illus: Car thief turned house thief

Washed, Full of Gas, with a note.

What an exciting time to be alive.

We stand between 2 mountain peaks of prophecy.

We live in the time between the blood drenched peak of

Calvary and the Glorious Son-lit peak of the Glorious
Appearing of Christ!

In the time between the Crucifixion and the Coronation!

As we have been studying, Jesus is Coming soon!

4 things to get ready for the 2nd coming

1. God Expects it to be a Surprising Day: vs 1-2

Thief comes when you don't expect him to:

Certainty of his coming: Don't Set a date!

(Acts 1:7) *It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*

(Matt 24:35-36) *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

(Matt 24:44) *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

Get your head out of the clouds of prophecy and your feet on
the pavement of Soul Winning.

Get people ready for the Return of Christ!

We are 2000 years closer.

He was born on time.

He died on time.

He arose again on time.

He will come again on His Own Time.

He may seem slow to us, but He is never late!

To God it has only been a couple of days. (2 Pet 3:8) *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

Why hasn't He come back yet?

(2 Pet 3:9) *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

(Matt 24:14) *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

The Day of the Lord WILL COME!

The Day of the Lord will be when he pour out His wrath.

The furious waters of God's Wrath is pounding against the
Dam of His Mercy

(2 Pet 3:10) *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

God, In Mercy, He is holding back this day.

God Expects it to be a Surprising Day:

2. This World is to be Ensured a Sudden Destruction: Vs 3
Guaranteed of...

A Solemn Day - “The Day of the Lord”

(Joel 2:1-2) *Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD** cometh, for it is nigh at hand; 2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.*

The rapture of the saved shall take you away from the great tribulation: “*Sudden Destruction*”

A Sudden Day: Vs 3

(Matt 24:27) *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

(Matt 24:37- 39) The Days of Noah - Ignorance/Indifference

A Significant Day: Vs 3

“as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” - This world is pregnant with judgment.

Once it comes, there will be no stopping it & More intense.

God Expects it to be a Surprising Day:

This World is to be Ensured a Sudden Destruction:

3. We are to Endure a Surrounding Darkness: (1 Th 5:4-8)

This world is in Darkness: Social, Political, Moral, Spiritual
The world is asleep in a drunken stupor of pride.

Be Aware and Wise Up: (1 Thes 5:4-5)

We are the only ones that can make sense of what is going on around us.

Are you aware of what is going on around you?

(1 Cor 2:13-16) *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? **But we have the mind of Christ.***

We have the Bible!

We do not have to be caught off guard.

Be Aware and Wise Up

Be Awake and Rise Up (1 Thes 5:6-7)

This world has been numbed into sleep!

Illus: I meet people who have the “Please Do Not Disturb Sign” posted on the door of their hearts!

“I am too busy to fool with Religion!”

I am preaching God’s Wake up Call to His Children:

We are the only ones who can make the difference because we know what’s coming!

This World has a Date with Destiny!

We are to be WATCHING! LAST WEEK (ROM 13:11)

The 2nd Coming of Christ is not a theory to discuss but a truth to be lived! - Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13)

We are to be WORKING! LAST WEEK (ROM 13:12a)

We are not to dress in White robes and sit on mountain tops waiting for enlightenment.

(Luke 19:12-13) Occupy=Occupation! We have a JOB to do!

(Luke 19:15) God Expects a Return on His Investment!

We are to be Salt (Preservative) & Light (Witness)

(Matt 5:13-16) *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let ywour light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

We are to be WAITING! (1 Thes 5:6) *“Be Sober”*

LAST WEEK (ROM 13:12b-13)

Besides the Souls we lead to Christ, all we take to heaven is what we become as a person!

You are not a BODY with a Soul, but a SOUL that for now, inhabits this BODY!

What kind of person are you BECOMING in CHRIST?

We are to Be Aware and Wise Up:

We are to Be Awake and Rise Up

We are to Be Alert and Dress up: (1 Thes 5:8)

Last Week (Rom 13:14)

We are the Only Ones that can be prepared, and show the rest of world how to be ready.

Dress up with the Breastplate of Faith & Love:

Get your HEART right: (1 John 1:6-9)

Affections: Temporal/Eternal

Dress up with the Helmet:

Get your HEAD right:

“A Checkup from the Neck Up!”

Get your HOPE right: (Titus 2:13)

Hope = *“You need absolute Certainty!”*

God Expects it to be a Surprising Day:

This World is to be Ensured a Sudden Destruction:

We are to Endure a Surrounding Darkness:

4. We Will Experience a Sure Deliverance: (Vs 9-11)

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Will the Church be Raptured or go through the Tribulation?

(Rev 1:19) *Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;*

3 Divisions of Revelation

Which Was: (Ch 1), Jesus in Glory

Which Are: (Ch 2-3), The Church Age

Which Is To Come: (Rev 4:1-Rev 22)

(Rev 4:1) ***After this...*** (After the Church age) Symbolically, John, Our Brother, was lifted out of this earth.

... I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

The Church is never mentioned again After Ch 3.

(1 Thes 1:9-10) *For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 And to wait*

***for his Son from heaven,** whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

*(Rev 3:10) Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will **keep thee from the hour** of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

Who is Jesus Speaking to?

(Rev 3:22) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Not just the church at Philadelphia, but all churches.

We Will Experience a Sure Deliverance

(2 Thes 2:1) He is Coming, and we will be gathered (Rapture)

(2 Thes 2:2) Someone sent a spurious letter & signed Paul's name to it fraudulently.

(2 Thes 2:3-4) Falling Away - Apostasia

They thought they were already in the Tribulation.

Paul was assuring them that their would have been the Revealing of the Antichrist and the great "Apostasy" of worshiping this imposter as God.

(2 Thes 2:6-8) The Great Restrainer

The antichrist is being restrained by the Holy Spirit.

*(John 14:16) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;***

He will not leave me, so I must leave with Him.

God always takes His Own out before He pours out his wrath

Noah: (Gen 7:1,16) God Shut Them In!

Lot: (Gen 19:16-17, *22) *Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.*

Rahab: (Josh 2:18)

(1 The 5:9-11) For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

We Will Experience a Sure Deliverance

If the church was going through the Tribulation, I would be looking around, not looking up!

(Luke 21:34-36) And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

(Matt 24:36) But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

(Matt 24:42) Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

(Matt 24:44) Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

(Mark 13:32-37) *And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*

We are to Be Ready

Jesus could Return at Any Moment!

(Titus 2:13) Blessed Hope!

(1 Jn 3:3) Having this Hope

I am to live so as to be ready to give an account.

(Rev 4:1) *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.*

(Rev 6:17) *For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*

I am waiting for Jesus, not the Tribulation:

(1 The 1:10) *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

(1 The 5:1-4) *But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

We Will Experience a Sure Deliverance

Paul's Explanation:

(1 The 5:9-11) *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Paul's Expectation: (1 Thes 5:10)

Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Paul was expecting Christ's return

(1 Thes 4:17) Paul said *"Then WE which are alive and remain"*

If this church goes through the Tribulation, we will not be looking for Christ, but the Anti-Christ.

(1 Jn 2:18) *"this is the last time"*, He expecting Jesus' return.

Paul's Edification: (1 Thes 5:11)

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

This Comforts us to know that we will be removed.

This Edifies us, builds us up to know we are being taken out.

NOT - *"Even so come Great Tribulation?"*

I am not looking for the Antichrist, I am looking for CHRIST.

Be Aware and Wise Up: (1 Thes 5:4-5)

We are the only ones who can make sense of what is going on around us.

Be Awake and Rise Up (1 Thes 5:6-7)

We are the only ones who can make the difference.

Be Alert and Dress up: (1 Thes 5:8)

Breastplate: Get your heart right:

Helmet: Get your head right:

The Hope of Salvation: (Titus 2:13)