

# 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5

September 14, 2025

1. **The first 3 chapters** Paul expresses his love and appreciation to the church
  - a. He also commends them for
    - i. the love they have
    - ii. For each other
    - iii. And for Christians travelling
      1. through Thessalonica
      2. from other places
  - b. Before he left for Athens, he left them with instructions
    - i. How they should conduct themselves
      1. personally
      2. And as a collective body / church
2. **Chapter 4** gives them instructions
  - a. addressing some of their needs and questions
    - i. Sexual Purity
    - ii. Hard work
    - iii. What happens when a person dies
3. **Chapter 5** is a continuation of instructions
4. **Remember these letters were not written in chapters.** These chapters were added around the 11th century. Many scholars think that scholar and clergyman Stephen Langton (c. AD 1150–1228) was responsible for creating chapter divisions referenced in today's Bible.
  - a. These verses should have been included in the **4<sup>th</sup> Chapter**
  - b. They **tie into** what Paul was discussing in **Chapter 4** about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1–4

*“Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.”*

5. Because Paul was so convinced
  - a. that Jesus would return during his lifetime
    - i. He conveyed this anticipation
      1. to those he ministered to
    - ii. The Thessalonians wanted to know
      1. the **exact time** Jesus was returning
  - iii. Just like people today want to know the exact date

1. Books are written predicting when Jesus will return
2. People misinterpret Revelation
  - a. as a the “DiVinci Code”
  - b. for Jesus’ return
- iv. Doom-Boomers
- v. When that time comes – you will know!!!
- b. It will take place when you least expect it
6. Paul was stating something Jesus had told his disciples:
  - a. All the Apostles were thinking the same
7. The Lord will come unexpectedly
  - a. Like a thief in the night
8. Jesus taught this
  - a. and Paul is reiterating
  - b. what Jesus said

**Matthew 24:36–44**

*“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. “Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

**Acts 1:6–7**

*“So, when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”*

9. Paul also warns the Thessalonians to not be misled

**1 Thessalonians 5:3**

*While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*

**CORRESPONDS WITH JESUS’ WORDS**

**Matthew 24:23–25**

*“At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time.”*

10. Today’s Christian message is: **“Peace and Safety”**

- a. God loves you
- b. He is with you
- c. He will sustain you
- d. “Happy Days are Here Again!!”

11. It's a false message

- a. These are troubling times
- b. Sin is ever so present in the church - TOLERATED
  - i. Divorce rate in the church is the same as the world
  - ii. Premarital Sex is very common – accepted
  - iii. Greed – everywhere (esp. in the clergy)
  - iv. Abortion is not talked about
  - v. Welcoming homosexuals (even in the clergy)

**Jeremiah 6:13–14**

*“From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain;  
prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit.  
They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious.  
‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.*

- c. NO DIFFERENT TODAY
- d. So many churches and ministers are preaching
  - i. Grace
  - ii. and God's Favor
  - iii. Sermons are **feel-good** messages
- e. When in reality **they should be preaching**
  - i. *“Repent, Repent –*
  - ii. *for the Kingdom of God is near.”*
- f. Telling people that **they are saved**,
  - i. yet they don't preach/teach
  - ii. Biblical conversion
  - iii. Aystin/Elia
- g. *“Destruction will come upon them”*
  - i. Another word would be **“annihilation”**
    - 1. **This should scare the wits out of people**
  - ii. Just as destruction
    - 1. came upon the Jews
    - 2. during Jeremiah's time
  - iii. Destruction will come upon

1. all who think they are saved,
2. In our day and age
3. but are not

12. Watch out for these **false prophets**

- a. They are the ones who are **predict** when **Jesus will return**.
- b. The fact that they are predicting
  - i. is a clear indication
  - ii. that they are false prophets

**1 Thessalonians 5:3**

*“While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”*

- a. Like a thief in the night
- b. Noah and the flood
- c. *“They will not escape”* – Heavy words!!!

**1 Thessalonians 5:5**

*“You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.”*

13. Words of encouragement

- a. They are the elect
- b. Called out of the darkness
- c. Their lives have been changed
- d. That should encourage us today – that we are those who are “called out”

**Revelation 7:9**

*“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.”*

**Revelation 7:13–17**

*“Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”*

*I answered, “Sir, you know.”*

*And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore,*

*“they are before the throne of God*

*and serve him day and night in his temple;*

*and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.*

*Never again will they hunger;*

*never again will they thirst.*

*The sun will not beat upon them,*

*nor any scorching heat.*

*For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;*

*he will lead them to springs of living water.*

*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”*

### **1 Thessalonians 5:6–7**

*“So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.”*

### **14. We are to be different**

#### **Ephesians 4:22–32**

*“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

*Therefore, each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

#### **QUESTION:**

Do you blend in or do people see that you are different?

### **1 Thessalonians 5:8**

*“But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”*

### **15. Cross referenced with Ephesians 6**

#### **Ephesians 6:13–17**

*“Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

- a. *And having on the breast-plate.*
- b. The word here rendered “breast-plate” (θώραξ) denoted the cuirass,
- c. Latin, *lorica*, or coat of mail;
- d. *i. e.*, the armor that covered the body from the neck to the thighs,
  - i. and consisted of two parts,

1. one covering the front
2. and the other the back.
- ii. It was made of rings, or in the form of scales, or of plates,
  1. fastened together so that they would be flexible,
  2. and yet guard the body
  3. from a sword, spear, or arrow.
- iii. It was often formed of plates of brass,
  1. laid one upon another,
  2. like the scales of a fish.
- iv. We are told that Goliath's coat of mail
  1. weighed 5000 shekels of brass,
  2. or nearly 160 pounds.
- e. **Ephesians** says the breastplate of righteousness
- f. **1 Thessalonians** says breastplate of faith and love
  - i. Breastplate protects the heart
  - ii. and other vital organs
  - iii. Also protects your back

**Proverbs 4:23**

*"Above all else, guard your heart,  
for it is the wellspring of life."*

- iv. When we put on the full armor of God,
    1. God will protect us completely
16. **The helmet** was a cap made of thick leather, or brass,
- a. fitted to the head,
  - b. and was usually crowned with
    - i. a plume,
    - ii. or crest,
    - iii. as an ornament.
  - c. Its use was to guard the head from a blow
    - i. by a sword,
    - ii. or war-club,
    - iii. or battle-axe.
  - d. Helmet protects our mind
    - i. **We need to protect** what goes into our minds
    - ii. What *goes in* and comes out **of our minds**

1. Pornography
2. Evil Thoughts
3. Lust, Envy, Jealousy, Greed, Hatred

iii. Like **Ephesians 4** – “to be made new in the attitude of your minds”

**Philippians 4:7**

*“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:9–11**

*“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”*

17. God’s original plan for man was for man to have **constant fellowship with him**.

- a. In the Garden of Eden, man walked and spoke with God.
- b. Man was made in **God’s image**
- c. There was an intimate relationship Man had with God

18. God’s plan hasn’t changed

- a. He still wants that intimate relationship
- b. Only Sin severed that relationship
- c. The blood of Jesus has **created a bridge** for Man to **cross over** into that original relationship
- d. “that we may live together with him”

19. HOW SHOULD WE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER?

**Hebrews 3:12–13**

*“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”*

- a. Making sure that no one is trapped in sin
- b. In jeopardy of losing God’s precious gift
- c. Encouragement – Putting courage in
- d. To stay faithful
- e. Not give into sin
- f. Know that Jesus and heaven are our prize

**20. Next Week – Part 2**

- a. Vs. 12-28