

July 14, 2024

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

Stark Contrasts

John was confused and a little discouraged. Ever since accepting Christ, he noticed that things were changing. Was it his imagination, or were his coworkers keeping him at arm's length? It also seemed like he had less and less in common with his old fishing buddies. Sometimes he felt like a fish out of water!

Do you ever feel like you don't fit in with the world? Do you find that you're simply not in step with those around you? Do you sometimes feel like an oddball because of your convictions? Have you ever wondered why you feel that way?

The reason is that there are **stark contrasts** between genuine Christians and lost people. If a photograph or video image has a lot of contrast, there is a lot of difference and distinction between the light and dark areas. This week's lesson will teach us about some of the stark differences between saved and lost people.

Deception vs. Understanding

1 Thess. 5:1 "But of the _____ and the _____, brethren, ye have no need that I _____ unto you."

Paul didn't need to write to the Thessalonians about when the Lord would return, because that information is reserved for God alone (Matt. 24:36; Mark 13:32). Any person who predicts a date for the Lord's return is a false prophet, inspired by the devil.

1 Thess. 5:2 How will the Day of the Lord come?

The **Day of the Lord** is a phrase used many times in the Bible. It refers to a future time of God's wrath and judgment upon sinners. The Day of the Lord will be unexpected and surprising.

1 Thess. 5:3 What will the lost be saying when sudden destruction comes upon them?

The word **travail** refers to the pain a woman experiences during childbirth. Throughout her pregnancy she knows that labor will come, but she doesn't know when. When labor starts, it continues until it is completed. In the same way, God's judgment will come, but we don't know when. When it starts, it will not stop until it has come to completion.

Darkness vs. Light

1 Thess. 5:4 "But ye, brethren, are not in _____." When a sinner comes to Christ, he or she is immediately translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light (1 Pet. 2:9).

1 Thess. 5:5 Saved people are children of _____. They are **not** of _____.

Sleep vs. Wakefulness

1 Thess. 5:6 Since we are not of the night, “let us not _____, as do others; but let us _____ and be _____.”

In this and the next verse, **sleep** refers to spiritual carelessness and a lack of spiritual watchfulness, not physical death as in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14. The word **sober** means to be serious and spiritually alert.

1 Thess. 5:7 When does sleep usually take place?

Christians shouldn't be spiritually asleep because they “*are not of the night*” (v. 5).

Drunkenness vs. Sobriety

1 Thess. 5:7 When does drunkenness usually occur?

1 Thess. 5:8 Christians (“*who are of the day*”) should be _____. What should we put on?

Wrath vs. Salvation

1 Thess. 5:9 “God hath **not** appointed us to _____, but to obtain _____ by our Lord Jesus Christ.”

This verse confirms the fact that believers will **not** experience God's wrath poured out upon the world during the Tribulation.

1 Thess. 5:10 Who died for us?

The word **sleep** in verse 10 refers to death, as it did in chapter 4. Whether the Christian is living or dead at the time of the Lord's return, he or she will live with Jesus forever!

Concluding Thoughts: This scripture passage reveals the stark contrasts between saved people who live with the expectation that Jesus is coming back, and unsaved people who live for themselves and for right now. Let's review those contrasts.

Lost People:	Saved People:
Deception	Understanding
Darkness	Light
Sleep	Wakefulness
Drunkenness	Sobriety
Wrath	Salvation

Which list looks more like your spiritual life? Has this study confirmed in your heart that you are a genuine child of God? If so, take comfort in that fact. The reason you sometimes feel like an oddball in the world is because **you are different**. A child of God simply does not fit into this world. Thank God that you are different.

Or, do you feel that you fit in very well with the lost world around you? Do the descriptions above of lost people match up with your life? Have you come to realize that you really aren't a genuine child of God? If you want to be saved, you can be. Read the simple plan of salvation printed on the back of this book. Confess your sins and ask Jesus to save you. You'll be glad you did. Call your Sunday School teacher if you have questions.

Project: Memorize **1 Thessalonians 5:9**. Thank God each day that you do not walk in darkness.