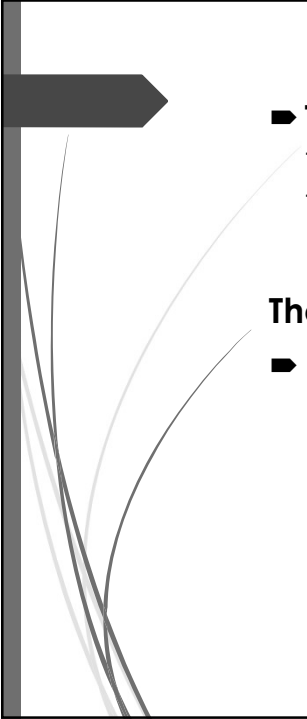




A Thief in the Night

1Thess. 5:1-11

1

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- **The Main Point:** Christians should be encouraged by the hope of salvation as they sober-mindedly await the Day of the Lord.

The Day of the Lord—Two Analogies

- Fully aware
 - Like a thief—unexpected
 - “peace and security” – Roman political propaganda
 - Like labor pains—inevitable
 - Certain, sudden destruction

2

Two Ways to Live

- ▶ Not surprised?
 - Surprised as a psychological state (everyone); surprised as being unprepared and caught-off guard due to lack of awareness (those in darkness)
- ▶ Children of light/day vs. children of darkness/night
 - Conduct of day-dwellers: wakefulness and sober-mindedness (awareness/watchfulness)
 - Conduct of night-dwellers: sleepiness and drunkenness (aloofness/inattentiveness)
 - Those belonging to “the day” should exhibit the corresponding conduct on the basis of their belonging to Christ.

3

The Backbone of Hope

- ▶ Daytime armor
 - ▶ Destined for wrath (night-dwellers) vs. destined to obtain salvation through Christ (day-dwellers)
 - Christ—a death that brings life
 - The hope of resurrection
 - ❖ “Us” and Christ’s death | **If Christ died for those destined for wrath, why does Paul highlight the death of Christ as the very thing that grounds the hope of the Thessalonian Christians?**
 - ▶ Encourage and build up
- ### Preparing for the Day
- ▶ Living in “awareness”
 - ▶ Living in holiness

4