

Saints and Sinners

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Introduction: There is an old hymn that begins like this...

“There is coming a day, When no heart aches shall come, No more clouds in the sky, No more tears to dim the eye, All is peace forever more, On that happy golden shore, What a day, glorious day that will be.”

This hymn describes the anticipation of heaven. When we think of heaven our thoughts go to our destiny after we lay down this body at death. But realize this, heaven also refers to the coming Rapture. We know the Rapture is an event promised in scripture and anxiously awaited. For the Church it will be the beginning of victory over a cruel and unconcerned world. For the world it will be much worse! Well to borrow a term from mathematics if we reduce the Rapture to its simplest form it is about “Saints and Sinners.” Today let’s look at the people of the Rapture by first refreshing our thoughts on...

I. A Coming Day V.v.1-2

A. Is well known!

1. Times (dispensations)
2. Seasons (indicators within the dispensation)

B. Is well named!

1. “The day of the Lord”
 - a) *Pertains to those on earth*
 - b) *Excludes the church*
2. “a thief in the night”

Any moment without warning!

II. Sinners of that Day V.3

A. A Proudful people

1. Peace; an inward response i.e. the Christians are gone
2. Safety; free from interference i.e. no more opposition

B. Destined for destruction

1. Of a sudden onset
2. Of a lengthy duration

C. Must endure without repentance

III. Saints who avoid that Day V.v.4-11

A. Have a heart of contrast when compared to the world.

1. A contrast of condition

Light and darkness; obedience vs. disobedience, not involved with failure

2. A contrast of character

The world will sleep, the church must stay alert and attentive!

3. A contrast of conduct

The church must be in self-control, the events that shake the world cannot move us

B. Have a sobriety that sets an example for the world.

1. Exhibits calmness
2. Testimony of faith love and hope

C. Have a salvation secured from God

1. Through Jesus
2. With eternal fellowship
3. Promising earthly comfort

Conclusion: It has been said you can be certain two things; death and taxes. Well I hope you realize that is only an expression. For the Christian you can be certain of the Rapture. For those who do not know Jesus at that time they can be certain of the "Great Tribulation". For today you can be certain there are Saints and Sinners. You fall into one of those categories today? If you are saved; born again; you have the sainthood of a believer. I trust you are living the life of a godly saint. If not today is your opportunity to change that. If you are not saved you are without a doubt a sinner. God wants you to come to Him through Jesus Christ. Here this; no amount of good deeds, moral living, contributions, prosperity or prestige will get you into Gods kingdom. You must be born again through Jesus Christ, and upon that new birth there will be a new you. Christianity has never been a system of do's and don'ts, it changes our want to; what we want to do, how we want to live, who we want to be like.