

I Thessalonians 5:6 - Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober.

1. Paul says, since believers know the Rapture could happen any moment, let's not be like most believers in a spiritual, not understanding slumber. They are in a fog by not separating "the day of Christ" from "the day of the Lord." As a result, they are in the dark, thinking of the darkness of the wrath of God upon the earth in the Tribulation.

**Absent of mystery truth leads believers to this!

a. *Isn't this true today when believers are more focused on events in the Tribulation rather than on the imminent return of Christ!?

b. Paul noted if there ever was a time for believers not to doze off but to be wide awake, it is today (Titus 2:13).

2. [sober] Gr-nephos. It means to abstain from intoxicating drinks that would hinder them from always being spiritually alert and ready for Christ's return. In other words, don't be caught up in the world's revelry, but remain clear and watching.

Philippians 3:19-20 - Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.) Phil. 3:20 - For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

II Timothy 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Titus 2:13 - Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

*Even Israel is to do this: I John 2:28 - And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

I Thessalonians 5:7 - For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

1. Paul shows two activities lost people do at night. They sleep and drink. Paul reminds the Thessalonians that they should not adopt the same lifestyle as those caught unaware or unready.

*Most people often go to sleep thinking they are spiritually and morally accepted by God, even though they have not believed in the true gospel (D.B.R.).

2. [drunken] A person controlled by alcohol. But also a spiritual drunkenness by false teaching.

Revelation 17:1-2 - And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: Rev. 17:2 - With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

I Thessalonians 5:8 - But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

1. Paul says since we believers are the light, we are not to live like those of the night in darkness.

2. Remember 1:3 says, faith, love, and hope. Here it says, "putting on the breastplate of faith." Faith is a **pro**tection for the believer.

I John 5:4 - For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

*Here is an **on**going trust in God's Word. The failure is not to continue to learn and **gro**w in faith.

3. [love] is having God's love in our hearts that encourages us to follow compassionately God's will.

Romans 6:17-18 - But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Rom. 6:18 - Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Ephesians 6:6-7 - Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; Eph. 6:7 - With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

4. [for an helmet, the hope of salvation.]

- a. A helmet protects the **mi**nd, which helps to give us security. Satan tries to get us to doubt - to **dis**trust God's Word and His promises.

II Corinthians 11:3-4 - But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. II Cor. 11:4 - For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.

- b. Salvation here means to rescue, to **de**liver. Remember the context. It is about believers delivered from the horrors of "the day of the Lord."

I Thessalonians 5:9 - For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1. Again, we believers are not associated with "the day of the Lord's" wrath. We are of the **day** (mystery revelation) associated with the Rapture, to meet the Lord in the air **before** the Tribulation.

- a. Note: When the Body of Christ is **re**moved, at that precise moment, there will be **no** believers on earth! I wonder who will believe first. I do not think you can be any clearer than this verse.

- b. [wrath] Isaiah 13:9, 13 - Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. Isaiah 13:13 - Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Revelation 6:17 - For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

I Thessalonians 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.

There is no idea of **partial rapture here!

2. A question has been asked: "What is the difference between Tribulation, suffering now, and the sufferings that will come?"

Answer: Suffering today is inflicted by Satan, the world, and our **fall**en flesh. The wrath to come is God's judgment with His punishment poured out on sinful mankind. His hand of protection will be **re**moved, except for the believing Jews and a few Gentiles. There are still many who will suffer martyrdom.

Revelation 6:9-11 - And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: Rev. 6:10 - And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? Rev. 6:11 - And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.

I Thessalonians 5:10 - Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

1. The basis - reason of our deliverance, what made it possible, is because of what Christ has done for us (I Corinthians 1:17-18).

Jesus died for sinners, and if any will believe, they, in turn, will **live** together with Him. This exchange shows the heart of the gospel that teaches Christ was raised from the dead so that we, the Body, could live with Him in heaven.

Ephesians 2:5-8 - Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) Eph. 2:6 - And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: Eph. 2:7 - That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. Eph. 2:8 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

I Thessalonians 4:16-17 - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: I Thes. 4:17 - Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

II Corinthians 4:14 - Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

2. Deliverance from the wrath to come and salvation of the soul is for all believers of the gospel, whether dead or alive. Either way, we are alive with Christ! Awake or asleep, we are **secure** in Christ.

II Corinthians 5:8 - We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Philippians 1:21, 23-24 - For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. Phil. 1:23 - For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Phil. 1:24 - Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Romans 8:39 - Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I Thessalonians 5:11 - Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Paul says, with this **mystery** truth of all believers being with their believing loved ones (those now, those asleep) and with Christ, what an **encouragement**!

*We should **remind** one another of this truth to give us faith, hope, and love. We are to live in the light of His coming for us and how that gives us Great Comfort!