

Scripture

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Summary

In this passage Paul writes to remind them of what we do know about Christ's return (that it's going to come at an unexpected time like a thief in the night, and that it's going to be inescapable like a pregnant lady waiting for labour). He then goes on to say that Christians do have this knowledge that Christ is coming back (though we don't know exactly when) which enables us to live our lives as children of the light, who are not naive towards these matters but informed and aware. The way that Paul urges us to live our lives as children of light is "having put

on faith... love and hope". This is how we live lives that are ready for Christ's return, living by faith now, demonstrating love towards others, and with the steadfastness of hope. Our confidence that we have on that great day of Christ's return is that God has destined us for salvation, meaning that we have nothing to fear as we are in Him. Let us then with boldness live our lives as children of light, with faith, love and hope, encouraging our brothers and sisters as we see the day approaching.

Sermon in a sentence

Because we are not ignorant of Christ's certain return and judgment of the earth, we should live our lives in the light of that, with lives of faith, acts of love, and hope in his return because He has destined us for salvation through Christ.

Main Points

- I. Clarity: What we know about Christ's return
 - a. It's unexpected like a thief in the night
 - b. It's inescapable like a the imminent labour of a pregnant mother
- II. Charge: How Christians are to live in the light of Christ's return
 - a. Not as those who are asleep or drunk, but awake, as sober children of the light
 - b. We do this by putting on faith, love and hope
- III. Confidence: Our certain hope at His coming
 - a. That He has destined us for salvation and we are in Him

Other Scriptures:

Matthew 24:36-39; Colossians 3:1-4; 2 Cor 5:7; Galatians 5:6; 1 Thess 1:2-5

Questions

1. Are you 'fully aware' of the return of Christ and living in the light of that?
2. Do you have any anxieties about that Day?
3. How does Paul say that Christians are to live compared to those who don't worship Jesus?
4. How does Paul encourage us to live 'awake', 'sober', and 'as children of the day'?
5. What does it mean to live by faith? What does it mean to put on love? What does it mean to live with hope?
6. What is our confidence on the Day of His return?

Think On This

"Who will harm the man when the great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom the Day of Judgment belongs, is on his side and stands before him with all His glory, greatness, majesty and might?"

— Martin Luther

RHC Core Values

Gospel-Centredness – To have the gospel in the centre of our ministry, and for everything we do to find its root in the gospel.

Experiential Faith – To actively seek the modern day work of the Holy Spirit, expecting him to move in our midst in signs and wonders, and to lead us to the will of God.

Theological Depth – To pursue a deep and soul satisfying knowledge and understanding of God through the Bible.

Community on Mission – To recognise that we are not here for ourselves, but are on a mission to bring the gospel to the world.

City Renewal – To see the gospel change every aspect of the city we are living in by doing social justice, integrating our faith and work, and seeing the city renewed culturally, socially and spiritually for the glory of God.