

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11^{iv}

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

^{iv} **About 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Paul responds to another of the Thessalonians' concerns, the desire to know the "times and the seasons" (v. 1), the persistent human wish to have an end-times timetable. Paul replies that such knowledge is not needful for Christians.

The "day of the Lord" (v. 2), now identified with Jesus' second coming, will happen as unexpectedly as a thief's entry. False assurances leave people unprepared for "sudden destruction" (v. 3), final separation from God. The Thessalonians should not concern themselves so much with the imminence of the second coming as with its immediacy to their lives, which acts as a call to vigilance and freedom from excess.