

Staying Alert and Clearheaded in Hard Times

"What Happens Next" Series- Part 01

Share/Connect time: What family tradition would you like to see your children continue? Why is this tradition important to you?

What would you do?

Today in our fast and connected society, we are told or given warnings about impending dangers. For each of the following warnings, imagine how you would respond and take action?

-You live on the west coast overlooking the ocean and you are told that scientist believe that a terrible earthquake will occur within the next 3 years and will cause a massive tsunami that will wipe out most of the coast. How will you respond?

The emergency siren system in your neighborhood begins to sound? What will you do?

Consider this warning:

2Th 1:7 And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with His mighty angels,

2Th 1:8 in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus.

2Th 1:9 They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from His glorious power.

What are ways in which people have responded to this Biblical warning?

Book: I Thessalonica 5:1-11

1Th 5:1 Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you.

1Th 5:2 For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.

1Th 5:3 When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

1Th 5:4 But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief.

1Th 5:5 For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night.

1Th 5:6 So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.

1Th 5:7 Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk.

1Th 5:8 But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

1Th 5:9 For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out His anger on us.

1Th 5:10 Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when He returns, we can live with Him forever.

1Th 5:11 So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Let's get into the Word:

The Scriptures describe the timing of the Lord's return to earth as unknowable...like a thief in the night. Why do you suppose that God has kept this important date a secret?

Would more people be prepared for His coming if they knew exactly when?

Yes! Why?

Or

No! Why not?

In our text today, notice the contrast that Paul makes between darkness and light:

Verse	Who is in the Dark and what are the results	Who is in the Light and what are the results
Vs. 4		
Vs. 5		
Vs. 6		
Vs. 7		

The children of the Light are given instructions on how to live in dark times. Provide examples of how we can be obedient to the actions stated by Paul:

- Be on guard
- Stay alert
- Be clearheaded
- Be protected by faith and love
- Have confidence in the helmet of salvation
- Encourage and build up each other

Homework:

Ask God to put someone on your heart this week and make a plan of how you will encourage and build them up?