

Mt Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Sunday School Lesson

8.24.2025

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that which he would have you to see through the study of God's word that we share.

Be Ready

1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11

How should we as believers, live our lives in Christ, while waiting upon the Lord's return. For starters, we must have an unwavering faith, we must be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, we must have courage in the midst of suffering, and we must trust in the Lord with our whole heart, all of which are promises and commandments set forth unto us through the word of God. Now, we know that we cannot control the timing of the coming of Christ, but we can control the way that we respond to situations and circumstances in our life while we wait. Therefore, in James we see:

James 5: 8,....be ye also patient, stablish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh....

As believers, we must determine to pursue a lifestyle of willing faithfulness as we live in eager expectation of Christ coming, knowing that he could return at any moment. So, no matter what we face in life, we are commanded to stand fast, knowing that God will strengthen our confidence in the hope of our salvation, and this hope will not disappoint, for this hope is a reminder that nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God.

1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 3,....of the times and the seasons....ye have no need that I write unto you....for yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night....for when they shall say, peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them....and they shall not escape....

Every generation is curious about the future, and every generation of believers is curious, and has numerous questions concerning the Lord's return. Many believers, have wisdom and knowledge concerning the end times, but without understanding from God, and applying his understanding to the circumstances that are happening around us, it allows for many predictions as to when the Lord will return.

Acts 1: 7,....it is not for you to know the times of the seasons....

No one knows or needs to know everything about the Lord's return. God through his word, gives unto us the information that he wants us to have so that we will anticipate his coming, for he wants us to live our lives in expectation, for true security can only be found in Christ. Mans predictions, and worldly assurances are a deception, and signifies a false sense of security, which leaves mankind placing their trust in worldly systems, in politics, in health and wealth and prosperity rather than placing their trust in God. But destruction is unavoidable, and the world will feel the increasing intensity of Gods judgement, which has no means of escape, for it is unescapable to those who have not yet, nor will ever put their trust in Chist.

1 Thessalonians 5: 4 – 7,....but ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you as a theif....ye are children of light....therefore let us not sleep....but let us watch and be sober....for they that sleep, sleep in the night....

Believers, unlike those who are in spiritual darkness and worldly bondage, should be aware of the fore coming of Christ, and therefore are prepared for his return. The word of God gives warnings, which we as believers should be teaching to the world around us, warnings that those who are not living by faith believing in the Son of God, nor in obedience to his word, are not ready for his return. Therefore, as believers, we are encouraged to live with awareness, and self-control, not being caught up in the self-righteous ways of the world, but we must live with an attitude of expectancy, so that we are not caught off guard or surprised. Therefore, let us live in a manner that reflects our identity as children of an almighty God, who are not destined to his wrath, but we are destined to the hope of his calling through salvation.

1 Peter 1: 13,....gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ....

Spiritual and mental preparedness provides within us with a living hope, and a focused life in the midst of trials and tribulations in our life. Therefore, we are to be mindful and alert, rather than just letting life pass us by. As believers, we must, through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we must focus our minds on the truth of God's word, so that we might maintain a spiritual clarity, not allowing our thoughts to be distracted by those things which bring uncertainty to the value of God's grace. So, where do we turn to find meaning and hope in our lives. It is in God's grace, and in the hope of our future at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is the moment that all of the longings in our hearts will become fully satisfied, for it is at that moment that we will be completely and wholly glorified in him.

Matthew 24: 32,....watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come....

The timing of the Lord's return is unknown, so, constant and consistent preparation is necessary in our life in Christ.

Matthew 24: 36,....of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only....

This leaves only one option for those who want to be ready, and that is to live in a state of awareness, so that we may not follow after the false notion that the things which happen in our life from day to day are all that is ever going to happen in life. We must remember that this life is temporary, and the next life is eternal, and that eternal life can begin without warning, and we are either going to spend that eternal life in God's judgment and wrath, or we can spend it in the opportunity of his salvation, a choice which has already been made, some without realizing.

1 Thessalonians 5: 8 – 11,....but let us....be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and....the hope of salvation....for God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ....who died for us, that....we should live together with him....wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another....

Make no mistake that divine judgment will be poured out upon the ungodly one day, but through Gods saving grace, all of mankind by faith believing in Christ can be completely delivered from the penalty of sin and death, securing an eternal life with God, regardless of the current state in which we live. Therefore, as we face difficult times and persecutions in our lives the word of God offers unto us a powerful message of hope, and encouragement, reminding all who believe of the ultimate destiny of our salvation. Understanding the truth will motivate us, as believers, to live a life that is spiritually moral, always ready to reflect the hope that is within us to those who are not yet destined to an eternal life with God.

1 Peter 3: 15,....but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear....

So, as believers, if we are going to be ready, than we must dedicate and devote ourselves to Christ, making him Lord over all, and then through the indwelling Holy Spirit, which abides within us, we will always be prepared to explain Gods saving grace unto others, which is the hope of our security in Christ, and we must explain it with humility, and gentleness, and godly fear, so that even those around us that speak evil against us will come to know the importance, and the urgency to turn away from a life of worldliness to a life in Christ before it is everlasting to late. For we as believers have set our hearts as the place where Christ is fully honoured and glorified as Lord of all.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>

