

## THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS (VV. 1–5)

## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1 – BLUE

- “Times and seasons” (*chronōn kai kairōn*) refers to prophetic timing, not ordinary change.
  - Used in Daniel 2:21 and Acts 1:7 to describe God’s control over prophetic events.
- Paul shifts to prophetic (non-Pauline) material yet still speaks directly to the Thessalonians.
- “No need that I write unto you” (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 2 Corinthians 9:1) implies previously known truth.
- The Thessalonians could already know this from prophetic Scripture, not from new revelation.
- Paul connects their understanding to the prophets, even though the Body of Christ relates differently to the coming day.
- The church is “built upon the foundation of the prophets” (Ephesians 2:20).

## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:2 – BLUE

- “The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”
  - Known perfectly—Paul reminds, not reveals.
  - The Day of the Lord = time of divine intervention, judgment, and kingdom establishment (Isaiah 13:6–13; Joel 1:15; Amos 5:18–20; Zephaniah 1:14–18).
- “Know perfectly” = their prior prophetic understanding.
  - Our knowledge depends on study (2 Timothy 2:15).
- The “thief” imagery echoes Jesus’ teaching (Matthew 24:43; Luke 12:39–40).
- Old Testament prophets also described it as sudden and unexpected (Joel 2:1; Zephaniah 1:15–18).
- Paul’s imagery aligns with prophetic tradition: judgment will come swiftly and inevitably.

## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:3 – BLACK

- “When they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them.”
  - Transition from “you” to “they”—shift from believers to the unbelieving world.
- “Peace and safety” = deceptive calm before judgment.
  - Parallel to “days of Noah” (Matthew 24:37–39).
  - Paralleled in Jeremiah 6:14; Ezekiel 13:10—false assurances of peace.
- Refers to future prophetic moment, not every peace declaration in history.
- “They” = unbelieving world leaders blind to truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10–11).
- “Sudden destruction” likened to travail of childbirth—inevitable, inescapable judgment.
- Old Testament connections: Isaiah 13:6–11; Joel 2:31; Zephaniah 1:14–18.
- Deliberate intervention of God in judgment upon a deceived and unrepentant world

## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:4–5 – BLUE

- Contrast: “Ye... are not in darkness” vs. “they.”
- Believers = “children of light, and children of the day.”
  - Darkness = spiritual ignorance; day = revelation and favor.
- The Day of the Lord will not overtake believers “as a thief.”
- Echoes 4:13—believers not to be ignorant.
- Two interpretive options:
  - **Option A:** Believers won’t experience the Day of the Lord (rapture before wrath).
  - **Option B:** Believers might witness it but won’t be surprised.
- “Overtake” is key—logic favors **Option A** (deliverance, not endurance).
- Reinforces the promise of deliverance from wrath (v. 9).

## THE CALL TO WATCHFULNESS AND SOBRIETY (VV. 6–8)

### 1 THESSALONIANS 5:6–7 – BLUE

- “Therefore” connects to verse 5—identity determines conduct.
- Believers = “children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).
- “Sleep” = spiritual apathy, not death (contrast 4:13).
- “Watch” = alertness; “sober” = self-control, clarity.
- Moral contrast:
  - Sleep/drunkenness = night.
  - Watchfulness/sobriety = day.
- Practical exhortation consistent with believers’ position in light.

### 1 THESSALONIANS 5:8 – BLUE

- “Let us, who are of the day, be sober.”
- Spiritual armor imagery: breastplate (faith, love) and helmet (hope of salvation).
  - Parallels Ephesians 6.
- Emphasizes practical protection for daily living, not positional standing.
- Reflects triad of Christian virtues: faith, love, hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3).
- Hope of salvation = confidence of ultimate deliverance.

## THE ASSURANCE OF DELIVERANCE (VV. 9–11)

### 1 THESSALONIANS 5:9 – BLUE

- “God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation.”
  - TITHĒMI = “to set,” not “to elect.” Directional, not determinative.
  - ESV’s “destined” misrepresents the term.
- Meaning: believers are SET TOWARD salvation, not wrath.
- Not about timing or process—salvation is the assured outcome.
- Context is pastoral, not Calvinistic.
- Assurance: the Day of the Lord’s wrath will not fall on believers.

### 1 THESSALONIANS 5:10 – BLUE

- “Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.”
- Two interpretive options:
  - **A:** “Wake/sleep” = spiritual alertness or lethargy → salvation independent of merit.
  - **B:** “Wake/sleep” = alive or dead → connects to 4:13–18 (rapture context).
- Both readings affirm assurance, not endurance.
- Emphasis: all believers, dead or alive, “live together with Him.”
- Deliverance = total, not conditional.

### 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11 – BLUE

- “Comfort yourselves together, and edify one another.”
  - Repeats 4:18, connecting both sections (4:13–5:11).
- Comfort stems from exemption from wrath, not endurance through it.
- Logic of comfort = deliverance.
- Believers encouraged by assurance:
  - Not appointed to wrath.
  - Secured salvation through Christ and a unified destiny—“together with Him.”