

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for January 11-12, 1997**

**Dale Whitehead**

**"Don't Walk in Your Sleep"**

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Those who have trusted in Christ as God's children are united in Christ (Galatians 3:28).

Christ not only unites, He also divides (John 7:43; 10:17-19).

His purpose in these verses is to encourage believers to live holy lives in the midst of our surroundings. He does this by pointing out the contrasts between believers and unbelievers.

### Knowledge and ignorance

"TIMES AND THE EPOCHS" - "Times" (CHRONOI) emphasizes time in respect to the day and the hour. "Epochs" (KAIROI) emphasizes events that will happen in respect to time.

"THE DAY OF THE LORD" (Isaiah 2:12; 13:6,9; Ezekiel 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18 (twice), 20; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7, 14 (twice); Zechariah 14:1; Malachi 4:5; Acts 2:20; here in 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:2; 2 Peter 3:10)

The Day of the Lord is always associated with the judgment of God, (check all above references).

The Day of the Lord when used in the Old Testament to refer to a future judgment by God can refer to either a near or far judgment of God, or both.

The expression "Day of the Lord" though involving other nations, exclusively concerns God's purposes for the nation of Israel, (check all above references).

The church will not go through the Day of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:2).

"A THIEF IN THE NIGHT" - Describes the suddenness and the surprise involved in the coming of the Day of the Lord.

### Expectancy and surprise

The world consistently believes that all is well even when God's true messengers are warning them of judgment (Jeremiah 6:13, 14; 8:10,11; Micah 3:5).

When the church is raptured (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) the world goes into "labor" or "birth pangs" (1 Thessalonians 5:3). The world will be in "labor" for seven years which is the length of the tribulation.

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At the end of the tribulation the Lord will return in "power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30). This will be followed by Christ's judgment of the nation of Israel (Matthew 25:1-30) and then the gentiles (Matthew 25:31-46). This will make it possible for only the righteous to enter the millennial kingdom.

Though the world is surprised by the "Day of the Lord", Christians are "sons of the light" and therefore are not "in the dark" when it comes to future events.