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**Keep Alert**

***1 Thessalonians 5:1-11***

Knowing that someone could come back at any time and that you will be held responsible for what you did (or didn’t) do is a powerful motivator to do right. Knowing that Christ could come back at any moment should be the most powerful motivator of all. This passage helps equip us to…

***Be Ready for Christ’s Return!***

1. **To be ready you’ve got to know correctly (vv 1-3)**

**Day of the Lord**

* An Old Testament concept involving judgment for God’s enemies and salvation for his people (Joel 2:1-3; 3:18).
* “Day” in this context doesn’t mean a 24 hour period of time, but rather a period of time belonging to God.
* There is an ultimate “Day of the Lord” coming, although there have been “days of the Lord” throughout history.
* The final Day of the Lord will include the tribulation events and the millennium.
1. **Christ’s return will come like a thief in the night (cf Matthew 24:36-44).**
2. **Christ’s return will come like a woman in labor pains.**
3. Labor pains come suddenly.
4. Labor pains can be deadly.
5. Labor pains mean no turning back!

**Imminency** - the belief that God could come at any moment, (not necessarily that he will come soon).

1. **To be ready you’ve got to live rightly (vv 4-8)**
2. **Right living is watchful living** – always looking for the return of Christ.
3. **Right living is sober living** – always realizing we stand on the edge of eternity.
4. **Right living is prepared living – grounded in the core truths of the gospel (cf 1:3).**
5. Prepared living means having faith toward God.
6. Prepared living means loving other believers.
7. Prepared living means hoping for what is to come.
8. **To be ready you’ve got to hope fully (vv 9-11)**
9. **Our hope is in salvation rather than judgment (v 9).**

While Christ’s coming will bring judgment on his enemies, it will bring salvation for his people.

1. **Our hope is in Christ’s work rather than ours (v 10).**

The end of this passages should surprise us. Those who sleep and those who stay awake are saved, because our salvation ultimately doesn’t depend on us.

1. **Our hope should lead to encouragement and edification (v 11).**

Paul wants the Thessalonians both to be comforted by these truths but also convicted by them.