

An aerial photograph of a busy crosswalk with white stripes on a dark asphalt surface. Several pedestrians are walking across the crosswalk, and their long shadows are cast across the stripes. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Pleasing God with Our Watchfulness”
Part I**

I THESSALONIANS 5:1-7

- a. On Sexual Purity (4:3-8)
- b. On Loving the Brethren (4:9-12)
- c. On Future Events (4:13-18)
- d. On the Day of the Lord (5:1-11)**
- e. On Recognizing Leaders (5:12-13)
- f. On Shepherding Others (5:14)
- g. On Nonretaliation (5:15)

Ways We Please God

KEY POINT:

We please God with our watchfulness for His return.

I. The Wrong Response to Christ's Return:
Seeking to Know the Date (vs. 1-3)

¹ Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

II Thessalonians 2:1-2

- Mentioned 22x in the N.T. but 469x in the O.T.
- Never a reference to the same thing
- Can be a specific judgment or era of judgment

The Day of the Lord

- Jesus used this image: Matthew 24:42-43; Luke 12:33, 39
- Peter used this image: II Peter 3:10
- John used this image: Revelation 3:3; 16:15

“Like a Thief in the Night”

“Times”	“Seasons”
Greek word <i>chronos</i>	Greek word <i>kairos</i>
Chronological time	A period of time
Quantity time	Quality time
Example: hours, seconds	Example: Enlightenment, revival

*And many false prophets will arise and lead
many astray.*

Matthew 24:11

*For false christs and false prophets will arise
and perform great signs and wonders,
so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*

Matthew 24:24

¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

II Thessalonians 2:10-12

- The thief is unexpected; labor is expected.
- A thief comes suddenly and unexpected, but he is avoidable.
- Labor cannot be avoided if you take the baby to full term and yet still feels sudden.
- Therefore, the lesson is this – no warning, no escape.

“As Labor Pains Upon a Pregnant Woman”

I. The Wrong Response to Christ's Return:
Seeking to Know the Date (vs. 1-3)

II. The Right Response to Christ's Return: Staying Alert (vs. 4-7)

*¹⁹ And this is the judgment:
the light has come into the world,
and people loved the darkness rather than the
light because their works were evil.*

*²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates
the light and does not come to the light,
lest his works should be exposed.*

John 3:19-20

*For although they knew God,
they did not honor him as God or give thanks to
him, but they became futile in their thinking,
and **their foolish hearts were darkened.***

Romans 1:21

*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.
For what partnership has righteousness with
lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light
with darkness?*

II Corinthians 6:14

*17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord,
that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do,
in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened
in their understanding, alienated from the life of
God because of the ignorance that is in them,
due to their hardness of heart.*

Ephesians 4:17-18

*for **at one time you were darkness,**
but now you are light in the Lord.
Walk as children of light*

Ephesians 5:8

*Be sober-minded; be watchful.
Your adversary the devil prowls around like a
roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

I Peter 5:8

1. Be talking about these things (I Thess 4:18; 5:11).

4 Ways to Grow in Watchfulness

2. Do something for the kingdom (I Thess 5:12-22).

4 Ways to Grow in Watchfulness

“The weakest temptation is strong enough to foil a Christian who is napping in security.

While Samson slept,
Delilah cut his locks.

While Saul slept, his spear was taken from his side and he was none the wiser. A drunken Noah slept and his graceless son took pleasure in seeing his father's nakedness.

Eutychus slept, nodded, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up for dead. Thus the Christian sleeping in false security may be taken by surprise. ...



William Gurnall
***The Christian in Complete
Armour***

... He may lose much of his spiritual strength – be robbed of his spear or armour (graces, I mean) – or have his nakedness uncovered by graceless men, and bring shame to his profession. Sleep steals upon the soul as quietly as it does on the body. The wise virgins fell asleep along with the foolish ones, though not so soundly. Take heed that you do not indulge yourself in laziness; stir yourself in action, as we tell someone who is drowsy to stand up and walk around.”



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3. Be committed to prayer (Luke 21:36; Eph 6:18).

4 Ways to Grow in Watchfulness

4. Meditate on the Gospel often.

4 Ways to Grow in Watchfulness

“Friend, live near to the cross, and you will not sleep. Labor to impress yourself with a deep sense of the value of the place to which you are going....If you think that hell is behind you, and the devil is pursuing you, you will not loiter.”



Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening