



Have you ever thought about the end of the world? For some, it brings fear, others curiosity, and if we are not careful, we can be consumed by the how or when. What should concern us is living a life that reflects that Jesus Christ will return.

Setting the Scene:

- Jesus will return a second time!

¹³ And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died **so you will not grieve like people who have no hope**. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

- The Bible is a collection of 66 books written by 40 authors, and over 20% of the Bible is devoted to prophecy. There are five times more prophecies on Jesus's second coming than his first coming.

Now concerning **how** and **when** all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. 1 Thessalonians 5:1

Live with the End in Mind.

1. Because No one knows the day and time of His return. (5:1-3)

³⁶ "However, **no one knows** the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself.^[a] Only the Father knows. ⁴³ Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ You also **must be ready** all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected. Matthew 24:36,43-44

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as **unexpectedly** as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. 1 Peter 3:10

- If we knew the exact date, there might be a temptation to be apathetic. Heaven can not be our only goal; we have to work to do.
- Fact: Jesus is coming, and judgment is coming.

2. Because we want to be ready. (5:4-8)

Christ designed that the day of his coming should be hid from us, that being in suspense, we might be as it were upon the watch. - Martin Luther

- We do not have to be afraid because this is a promise of hope.
- Light and darkness is distinguished.

The word translated "asleep" (*katheudo*) is used for moral indifference (see Mark 13:36; Ephesians 5:14). These people aren't waiting for the Lord, aren't caring that he could return, and are even getting drunk (the opposite of sober), a metaphor for their moral indifference toward the holy God. "Sober" also means "self-controlled" (NIV) and further implies being ready rather than muddled in one's thinking.¹

- Sleep expresses a lack of knowledge
- Sleep expresses insensitivity towards the Holy Spirit
- Sleep expresses idleness

In a sermon on this text titled, **Awake! Awake! CH Spurgeon** showed the folly and tragedy of the sleeping Christian with three powerful pictures:

¹ Barton, B. B., & Osborne, G. R. (1999). [1 & 2 Thessalonians: life application commentary](#) (pp. 78-79). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

· A city suffers under the plague, with an official walking the streets crying out, "Bring out the dead! Bring out the dead!" All the while, a doctor with the cure in his pocket sleeps.
· A passenger ship reels under a storm and is about to crash on the rocks, bringing near-certain death to the hundreds of passengers – all the while, the captain sleeps.
· A prisoner in his cell is about ready to be led to execution; his heart is terrified at the thought of hanging from his neck, terrified of death, and of what awaits him after death. All the while, a man with a letter of pardon for the condemned man sits in another room – and sleeps.

- While we wait, we draw strength by **spending time with the Lord.**

⁷ And **God will provide rest** for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, 2 Thessalonians 1:7

- **Get to work** – We work to build the Kingdom of God.

⁶ And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: **Stay away from all believers who live idle lives** and don't follow the tradition they received^[a] from us. ⁷ For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you. ⁸ We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night, so we would not be a burden to any of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-8

The way to be ready for Jesus' return is not in knowing when he will return, for he won't give that information. Instead, readiness lies in being alert and sober. The children of the light will be awake and ready when the Lord returns. Paul describes those who constantly expect the Lord to return at any moment. They are not dallying in sin or falling into temptation, or being waylaid by their own doubts. We also must walk close to God in daily fellowship with him so that at the Second Coming, we will be ready.²

- **Do good.**

¹³ As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good. 2 Thessalonians 3:13

¹² The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So **remove your dark deeds** like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. ¹³ Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. Romans 13:12-13

3. Because We Have Purpose (5:9-11)

- He Chose you, so you can live with Him forever (Starting the day you received Him as your savior)

Spiritual warfare is very real, and Satan does not easily accept people's leaving his kingdom for God's kingdom. So believers must be armed and ready, like soldiers, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. To the Ephesians, Paul had written about the armor believers need for their spiritual battle:³

¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we^[a] are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:11-12

- We are called to encourage and build other believers up in the Lord.

One Last Thought: Live each day with the reality that Jesus Christ can return at any moment. Be proactive, be prepared, be ready.

² Barton, B. B., & Osborne, G. R. (1999). [1 & 2 Thessalonians: life application commentary](#) (p. 78). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

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