

asleep, but awake and alert, paying attention to the events of day, being sure to not be overtaken suddenly by His coming, but living in holiness and eagerly awaiting our deliverance.

**1 Thessalonians 5:7-8** – 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. NASU

A. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night – His point again is clear, in regard to the looming judgment of Christ’s Second Coming, we shouldn’t be unaware like we were sleeping, or morally uncontrolled as if we were drunk, **“For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.”**

B. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation - Instead, **“since we are of the day,”** we should be aware and **“sober.”** Then he uses yet another analogy of the Christian life stating **“having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.”** Here he is describing that our Christian faith is like being *prepared* for battle with the all the gear needed for warfare. The emphasis here is on **being prepared**, as if for warfare. This he describes as faith, love and hope, that beautiful triad of Christian virtue which is the possession of all who trust in Christ. This kind of armor imagery is common in Paul’s writings. See **Eph 6:11-18, Rom 13:12-14**

**Romans 13:12-14** - 12 The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let **us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.** 13 Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.** NASB

**1 Thessalonians 5:9-11** – 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. NASU

A. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, - Here Paul is saying, **“God has not destined us,”** that is, the sovereign God is the One who holds our destiny. And that destiny is absolutely clear, it is not **“for wrath, but instead for obtaining salvation.”** God did not save us to destroy us, but instead to set His love upon us, deliver us and set us apart from sin, and to glorify His greatness by a mighty salvation which has come to us by His grace alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone. Here Paul is continuing his thought from verse 5:1-2, describing what it will be like at the coming **“day of the Lord.”** The unbelieving world will be unaware of His coming and **“suddenly destroyed....like a thief in the night.”** But the Christians will not be **“overtaken by that day as a thief,”** but instead being **“alert and sober”** will in fact be delivered from the coming wrath, as verses 4:15-17 so clearly portray. **First comes the deliverance and rescue, THEN comes the wrath and destruction.** I repeat here that this is abundantly clear in the teaching of our Lord.

**Matthew 24:37-42** - 37 "For **the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.** 38 "For **as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,** 39 **and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.** 40 "Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. 42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. NASB

Noah was eagerly awaiting the coming judgment of God. He didn’t know the day or the hour, but He knew that God had said he would judge, and it would be in his lifetime. Therefore he was about the master’s business of building an ark, all the while the mocking rebels of the world looked on with amazement while he built the great ark in the middle of a place where it had

never rained. But when the judgment came, Matt 24:38 says, **“Noah entered the ark.”** But the people of the world **“did not understand until the flood came and took them all away, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.”** First came Noah’s deliverance, then came the sudden destruction of God’s **“wrath,”** of which the world was unaware, likely thinking it was a time of **“peace and safety,”** or at a minimum, another day as usual, eating, drinking, marrying, etc...

B. who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing – Can we have a greater proof that God will not destroy us than the fact that He sacrificed His Son so that we could live? Can He say in greater terms that He intends for our good and that our salvation is of such importance to Him that He would sacrifice the most valuable thing in the world to Him, even His only begotten Son? Indeed the Christ **“who died for us”** is proof of God’s love toward His called and chosen people, and sufficient means to save us from the wrath to come.

**1 Thessalonians 1:10** - 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is **Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.** NASB

Paul now refers all the way back to 4:13-15 when he says, **“so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.”** His point here is, whether we Christians are alive now, or have passed away in death, **“we will live together with Him.”** Christian believers are now **in Christ** and shall never be separated from Him. Nothing in life, nor even death, can separate us from Him.

**Romans 8:38-39** - 38 For **I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us** from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. NASB

**Colossians 3:3-4** - 3 For you **have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.** NASB

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** – 12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. NASU

A. Here Paul has ended his discourse on the parousia (verses 4:13-5:11), and moves onto a yet different theme. In this closing section he will give various greetings and statements on church life, as is his custom at the close of a letter. As he shifts his thinking to matters of church life, he respectfully addresses the matter of church leadership stating, **“But we request of you, brethren.”** Here Paul will address both the members of the church in regard to their disposition before the leadership (verse 12-13), and also the leadership themselves in regard to carrying out their duties (verse 14-15). He first exhorts the church members in two ways about how they relate to their leaders. He tells them that they should both **“appreciate”** them and also **“esteem them very highly in love.”** The Christian duty here is that they both *honor* and **“love”** their leaders. Of this honor Paul describes it as **“appreciate,”** meaning to be both grateful to God and to consider them valuable. To further amplify this duty of **“appreciate”** he says they should **“esteem them very highly,”** esteem meaning to place value upon, and this he says that should do **“very highly in love.”** The degree of this honor and esteem to church leaders is not just high, but held in the *agape* love of God. This is to say that you regard your church leaders so highly that you are committed to them with much affection and in the self-sacrificing love of God. This was Paul’s common teaching referred to in many places.

**Philippians 2:29-30** - 29 Therefore receive him in the Lord with all joy, **and hold men like him in high regard; 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ,** risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me. NASB