

1 Thessalonians: Chapter 5 A Life of Faith

Session 18: Days, Times and Seasons

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace



*Days, Times and
Seasons*

2 of 8

among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not despise prophecies.

21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

22 Abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.



Days, Times and Seasons

3 of 8



Welcome to Session 18 of A Life of Faith. I pray God blesses you for your diligence in pursuing His will and His Word. Please take a moment to pray and ask for God to open your heart to the truth of His Word. After you finish praying, please sign your initials on the line _____. Today we are focusing on references to time, in particular *times and seasons*.

Please read all of 1 Thessalonians 5 on pages 1 and 2. Highlight, underline, and mark the text in anyway you feel led.

How is time useful to man?

Please skim through the chapter again and draw a little clock above all words that reference time.

In verses 4 and 5, Paul uses contrasting concepts of *day* and *night*. All people fall into one of these two categories. We are either sons of *the day/light* or we are of *the night/dark*. Please draw a sun above the reference to *day/light* and a dark cloud above references to *dark/night* on page 1. Please read 1-10 and look for characteristics and activities of those who are sons of *the day* and those who are of *the dark*. Fill in the chart below with your information.

Sons of the Day 	Those of the Dark 



Days, Times and Seasons

4 of 8

I am very thankful that God has made it possible for anyone who desires to become a son or daughter of the light.

Go back to verse 1 and underline the phrase, "times and seasons."

What is your favorite season of the year, and why do you like it?

Similarly, what is your favorite time of day, and why do you like it?

What is the difference between times and seasons?

In the Greek, *times* transliterates as *chronos*, which means "a space of time, either long or short." For example, you spent *time* on vacation or you spent *time* with your sister. Or maybe your were sick for a *time* last month.

Seasons transliterates as *kairos*. *Kairos* means "due measure, a time which is marked by certain features." *Chronos* (times) marks quantity; *kairos* (seasons) marks quality. In Aramaic, *times and seasons* translates respectively as "time and a set time."

Think about the four seasons. Please record characteristics of each season.

spring:

summer:

fall:

winter:



Days, Times and Seasons

5 of 8

People often compare the seasons of life to the seasons of nature. Think for a moment and make a list of possible seasons of life.

The American Institute for Learning and Development lists 12 different stages or seasons of life. (You can check them out at the following link: http://www.institute4learning.com/stages_of_life.php).

What season of life are you experiencing at this time?

The book of Ecclesiastes states, "to everything there is a season; a time for every purpose under heaven." Did you note there is a *purpose for every time* under heaven? All seasons are purposeful, even seasons of loss, chastisement, or suffering. Somehow it's a little easier to bear hard times knowing there is a purpose in the suffering.

In the margin of verse 1, please write the word *purpose* above the phrase *times and seasons*.

Think of a *time* you experienced. Can you look back and see a purpose for that time?

Please read verses 1 and 2 again. What time or season is Paul referring to in these verses?



Days, Times and Seasons

6 of 8

The Day of the Lord. What is this Day of the Lord? Let's do a little research and find out. We'll begin with the chapter we are studying.

Please review verses 1-10 again and record every detail listed or inferred about the Day of the Lord.

Here is what I learned from today's Scriptures about *the Day of the Lord*:

- It is a specific event within a season (verse 1).
- It is a fearful time for unbelievers (verse 3).
- It will come quickly and seemingly without warning (vs. 2 and 4).
- We need to be watching for it.
- Believers will overcome by faith, love and salvation.
- Believers are not appointed to the wrath of this day.

Let's continue researching the mighty *Day of the Lord*. Look up each verse and write what you learn in the space provided.

Jeremiah 46:10

Joel 2:11

Joel 3:14

Malachi 4:5

2 Peter 3:10



Days, Times and Seasons

7 of 8

Please glance over all the information you just recorded and write a summary for the Day of the Lord.

The reason God created time is to mark the passage of the ages until the return of Christ. According to Blue Letter Bible, the Day of the Lord is “the last day of this present age, the day Christ will return from heaven, raise the dead, hold the final judgment, and perfect his kingdom.” It will be heaven for us, and untold suffering for those who have rejected Christ.

Meditate on what you have learned.

Since God gives us information for transformation, what changes does God want you to make?

How will the Day of the Lord come (verses 2-4)?

How does a thief come? Describe the circumstances of a typical burglary.

Matthew Henry states, “And no doubt the apostle had told them, as of the coming of Christ, so also of his coming suddenly, which is the meaning of his coming as a thief in the night, [Rev. 16:15](#). As the thief usually cometh in the dead time of the night, when he is least expected, such a surprise will the day of the Lord be; so sudden and surprising will be his appearance.”

Since the Day of the Lord also is compared to labor pains, what can we infer about the Day of the Lord?



*Days, Times and
Seasons*

8 of 8

**Finally, as we wait for The Day to come upon us, what should we do?
Make a list from verses 14-22. Circle the items you need to focus on.**

Remember God has placed you very specifically upon the earth. The era and your place of birth; current living situation and sphere of influence are no accident or chance happening. Your skills and gifting are need *for such a time as this*. Let's be faithful to our calling so one **Day** we will hear our Father say, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

Have blessed day ... time and season!

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