

“Foundations of the New Testament Church”

Week #5: “Watchful Readiness”

Faith Bible Church

August 1, 2010

www.fbcsterling.org

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 *(New American Standard)*

4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

5:1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. **2** For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. **3** While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; **5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; **6** so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. **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. **9** For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. **11** Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

THROUGHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE FIND A SPIRIT OF WATCHFUL READINESS, OF EAGER ANTICIPATION IN THE HEARTS OF BELIEVERS, BASED ON THE FOLLOWING TRUTHS:

- I.** God's Word is a source of _____ even in times of _____.
(4:13)

- II.** This hope is based on the _____.
(4:14)

- III.** Jesus will _____ and gather His _____ to Himself.
(4:15-17)

- IV.** We will not know the _____ of His return, only that it will be _____ and _____.
(5:1-3)

- V.** We must _____ in a state of _____.
(5:4-10)

- VI.** This knowledge should be a source of _____.
(4:18, 5:11)