

## *“The ‘When’ of Our Lord’s Coming”*

*1 Thess. 5:1-11*

### *The Sufficiency of His Grace for the Sustaining of His Suffering People*

Paul is writing to a people who are suffering. The persecution encountered was such that many had faced the blade and shed blood; others had given their lives for their faith in Christ. In the midst of their heartache and suffering they also faced emotional confusion concerning future resurrection. They wondered, “We will ever see our dead loved ones again?”

Chapter 5:1-11 is a continuation of Paul’s answer to the suffering Church.

The point of both paragraphs (4:13-18 and 5:1-11) is not a sequence, but an event. The two form one indivisible truth – Jesus is coming. It is this hope that brings comfort to the sorrowing and strength to the weak.

I. His coming will be like a thief in the night (vv.1-3).

Paul describes the coming as “The Day of the Lord.” The day of the Lord is a day marked by judgment and blessing. The day of the Lord is a day of cataclysmic alterations. When this day comes, all things will change; nothing will be as it once was. Like a homeowner (v.2) and a pregnant woman (v.3), we know what will happen; we are simply not sure when it will happen.

II. His coming will not catch the believing ones unprepared (vv.4-8).

There is a contrast between two groups.

Believers are called “The children of light” (John 12:36; Eph. 5:8), whereas unbelievers are in darkness.

III. His coming brings blessings and provides hope for the believing ones (vv.9-11).

A. We will be spared from His wrath against sin (v.9).

B. We will live together with Him (v.10).

C. We are to encourage one another with this truth (v.11a).

D. We are to edify one another with this truth (v.11b).

When Jesus returns the gap that currently exists between what you know to be true and what you feel will then be united.