

## Why Teach Bible Prophecy – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 – January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- What I want to do today is share with you three reasons as to why the teaching of Bible prophecy is of paramount importance.
- What's so striking to me about Paul's letter to this church in Thessalonica is that he taught them about Bible prophecy early on.
- As such, he's able to write to them concerning the Lord's return knowing they already had an understanding as new believers.

### **1. Be Ready (Verses 1-3)**

1 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

- Here Paul tells them to be ready knowing that the Lord will come as a thief in the night while people say, "Peace and Security."
- While verse three is one we talk about often, I think we would do well to consider the context in which the Apostle Paul says it.
- He compares the Lord's return to a thief in the night because a thief will not warn you that he's coming so you are always ready.

### **2. Be Aware (Verses 4-8)**

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

- Here, Paul uses a different word for sleep, such that he's not talking about death, rather, he's talking about sleeping spiritually.
- Simply put there are those who are not awake and alert in the spiritual sense, which is why they're unaware of the Lord's return.
- When you're sleeping, you're unaware of anything that's happening, and as such, vulnerable to what could happen in that state.

### **3. Be Encouraged (Verses 9-11)**

9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

- To me, this is one of the most compelling proofs of a pre-tribulation rapture, by virtue of how it builds us up and encourages us.
- What Paul is saying here is we're not only to be encouraged ourselves because of this, but we're to encourage others as well.
- In other words, knowing that we will escape the coming wrath of God during the 7-year tribulation should be very encouraging.