

1ST THESSALONIANS

Sermon Series Notes



Rapture Readiness” (I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11)

Danny Hodges – NT3491

Intro: There are lots of different ideas on the rapture of the church and the second coming of Jesus Christ.

I. THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST’S COMING (4:13-18)

A. Prophecies Of Christ’s First Coming

- * Micah 5:2 (Place of birth)
- * Isaiah 7:14 (born of a virgin)
- * Hosea 11:1/Matthew 2:15 (called out of Egypt)
- * Psalm 41:9/John 13:21 (Betrayed by a friend)
- * Zech 11:12/Matthew 26:15; Luke 22:5 (Sold for 30 pieces of silver)
- * Zech 11:13/Matt.27:5 (30 pieces of silver thrown into the temple)
- * Isa.53:12/Matt.27:35 (Crucified with criminals)
- * Zech 12:10; Psalm 22:16/John 20:25-27 (pierced his hands and feet)
- * Psalm 69:21/Matt.27:34 (Vinegar and gall given to him while on the cross)
- * Psalm 22:18/matt.23:35 (Soldiers gambling for his clothing)
- * Zech 12:10/John 19:34 (Side pierced)
- * Isa.53:9/Matt.27:57, 60 (Assigned a grave with the wicked and the rich in his death)
- * Note: There is no other book in the world like this book!

B. Prophecies Of Christ’s Second Coming

* Daniel 7:13/Matt.26:62-64

* Matthew 24:30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

* Matthew 25:31-33; II Thess.1:6-10; Heb.9:27-28; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Rev.22:7, 12, 20.

C. The Encouragement In This Truth

1. All who are “asleep” in Him will come with Him.

* John 11: 11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

* It is not the soul that is asleep, but the body. How do we know this to be true?

- Matt.22:23-32

- John 8: 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

- II Cor.5:8-9; Phil.1:21-24; II Cor.5:1-9; I Thess.5:10

* What about Old Testament believers?

- Luke 16:19-31

- Eph.4:8-10

2. We will be “raptured” to be with the Lord forever!

* It’s like parachuting backwards...

3. Encourage one another with these words.

II. THE SUDDENNESS OF CHRIST’S COMING (5:1-3)

* Luke 17: 34 I tell you, on that night two people will be ***in one bed***; one will be taken and the other left.

* Matt.24:36-44

* It will be “surprising” for everyone, yet it will not take everyone by surprise...

* Can believers be caught “off guard?”

- John 2: 28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.
- Matthew 24:45-51; 25:1-13

III. REMOVING THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE (5:4-11)

A. Not Being Like “Others”

1. They are “asleep” (definition?)

* The word for “asleep” (katheudōmen; cf. v. 10) differs from the one used in 4:13-15 where it means death (koimaō). Here it means spiritual lethargy and insensitivity. This is the condition of the unsaved, the **others**. Christians, on the other hand, should be watchful and soberly waiting for the Lord’s return (1 Cor. 1:7; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 2 Peter 3:12), and **self-controlled** (1 Thes. 5:6), maintaining self-discipline in view of the great events to come.

2. They live in “darkness.”

* Like those who are **drunk**—which render them unable to respond as they should.

3. Issues that deal with being prepared.

a. Foolishness (Matt.25:1-13)

b. Laziness (Matt.25:24-27)

- This person lives in the “fear” of the Lord, but doesn’t really know the Lord (perfect love drives out fear).

c. Carelessness (Matt.25:41-46)

d. Impatience (Matt.24:45-51)

e. Worldliness (Matt.24:38-39)

- Worldliness is not just living in licentiousness. Worldliness is getting so caught up in the things of this life that one is no longer living in light of eternity.

- Luke 14: 18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' 19 "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' 20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

B. Living As Children Of The Light

1. Be self-controlled and alert.

* Titus 2:11-13

2. Put on faith and love as a breastplate.

* Prov.4:23

* Luke 22: 31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.

* II Cor.4:7-18; Psalm 73

* I John 3:18; Matthew 25:31-46

3. Put on the hope of salvation as a helmet.

* Keeps me from "losing my head" (II Tim.4:5)

- Heb.11: 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

- I Cor.15: 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

* Enables me to face death without fear.

- Heb.2: 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

- Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael