"Don't Fear the Day of the Lord"
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

C.I.T.-Those who remain until His Parousia should stay alert and be prepared for His return.
C.I.S.—Make sure that you are staying alert and are prepared for Jesus' return.
Purpose—I want our people to live with His return on their mind and maintain faithfulness.
Introduction—Surprise Videos—A Day when it wont be funny

I. ***The Day of the LORD is Sure.*** Vs. 1-2a
- a. This Day is a Day of Judgement.
  - i. Old Testament Prophets prophesied about the Great Day of the LORD.
  - **ii. Zephaniah 1:14-18**
  - iii. Referred to as the Day of the Lord, God, Christ, Jesus Christ, our Lord Jesus Christ, and simply that day.
- b. This Day will include the Parousia/Coming of Christ.
  - **i. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**
  - ii. **2 Peter 3:4-10**
- c. This Day is preceded and accompanied by signs and wonders, including the Great Tribulation
  - i. **Joel 2:28-32; 2 Peter 3:10**
  - **ii. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8**
  - **iii. Matthew 24:27-31**
- d. This Day includes the justice and rest for Christians.—**2 Thessalonians 1:5-10**
- e. It includes the Parousia, the resurrection of the dead saints, the gathering of the living saints, the defeat of Satan, the beginning of the judgment of unbelieving humanity, and the initiation of Christ's Millennial Reign.
- f. This is a big day and it is sure to come.
- g. Illus.—Likened to Noah—God told him a day was coming, and it took 100 years to get there.
- h. Application
  - i. All of History is progressing to this day.
  - ii. It will get worse before it gets better.
  - iii. We will lose elections, fight wars, see debauchery and sin reign supreme.
  - iv. Yet, all of it leads to the great Day of the LORD, when all wrongs will be righted.
  - v. This is why they say Come Lord Jesus.

II. ***The Day of the LORD is Surprising***. Vs. 2b-5
- a. As a thief in the night.
  - i. Metaphor refers to a thief coming unexpectedly and secretly.
  - ii. You don't know that they are coming and so you are surprised when you wake up and your stuff is gone.
  - **iii. Matthew 24:36-44**
  - **iv.** Interesting that the disappearance of people is used to refer to the pre-tribulational Rapture, but it is in the context of the post-tribulational Second Coming of Christ.
- b. It will be surprising to unbelievers.
  - i. Peace and Security—It occurs during the Great Tribulation, which seems to be a winning time for a lost world.
  - ii. Just as the people during the time of Moses—marrying and giving in Marriage, and then boom a storm.
- c. It will not be surprising to believers.
  - i. Dark/Night vs. light/day

1. Unbelievers are in the dark spiritually and therefore are ignorant.
2. Believers are in the light spiritually and therefore are informed.

ii. It will overtake us, but not as a thief.

iii. Revelation 16:14-16

d. Illus.—Days of Noah—Noah didn't know what day it was going to start raining, but he wasn't surprised when it did. He was probably relieved.

e. Application

i. No one can know the exact time, but we can be expectant.
ii. We can make sure that we are ready.
iii. The New Testament talks about being ready all over the Bible.

III. ***The Day of the LORD is Stirring***. Vs 6-8

a. We are not of the dark but the light and therefore we should act like it.
b. Stay Alert—keep watch, stay awake
c. Stay sober—don't get drunk
d. Put on the armor of God—Faith, Love, Hope of salvation
e. We are to remain faithful throughout, so we will not be surprised.
f. Revelation 3:3
g. Being surprised would either result in a realization that you are lost or ashamed that you aren't living for Jesus.
h. Illus.—Knowing that the storm was coming kept Noah working on the boat.
i. Application

i. We see the wars and rumors of wars.
ii. We notice the signs of the times.
iii. If Jesus came back today, I don't think we would be surprised or found unready, if we remain faithful.

IV. ***The Day of the LORD is Safe***. Vs 9-10

a. Appoint us—not individually, but collectively
b. Wrath—judgment of God

i. Some would argue that this refers to the Great Tribulation.
ii. However, this text is not about the Great Tribulation, but about the wrath that comes on the Day of the Lord.

c. Obtain salvation

i. Salvation is presented with past, present, and future aspects.
ii. Our ultimate salvation does not take place until this point.
iii. We obtain/preserve/achieve salvation.
iv. For believers, the Day of the Lord is not a day of woe and wrath, but a day of joy and rejoicing.

d. **Joel 2:32**—salvation
e. This salvation is provided through the sacrificial, substitutionary death of Christ.
f. Illus.—Noah receive a boat to save him, we have Jesus
g. Application

i. He does not promise to remove us from difficulty, but to save us.
ii. It will still rain on us, but we have a Jesus who will save us from the wrath to come.

Conclusion

- Illus.—When I was a kid and learned about this day.
- We don't have to be startled by the Day of the Lord.
- It doesn't have to scare us.

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- We trust in Jesus and know that he will see us through.
- However, if you have not trusted in Jesus, it should scare you to faith in Him.