

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

READY OR NOT, HERE HE COMES!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Main Thought: In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, we learn about the importance of being ready for the Second Coming of Christ.

1. THE NECESSITY OF WALKING IN _____.
(vv 1-5)

- 1) The Day of the _____ will come.
- 2) The Day of the Lord is that time when Christ will return to _____ the world.
- 3) It will be _____.
- 4) _____ will be caught by surprise.
- 5) _____ should not be surprised.

2. THE _____ OF WALKING IN READINESS. (vv 5-8)

- 1) We must live daily with an _____ of watchfulness.
- 2) We must live daily with the discipline of _____.
- 3) We must live daily with the _____ of God's armor. (Eph. 6:10-18)

3. THE _____ OF WALKING IN READINESS.
(vv 9-11)

- 1) Comfort from knowing we will not experience _____
- 2) Peace from knowing we are ready for the coming of _____.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings/yourself from this passage?

4. What verse meant the most to you? Why?

5. What didn't you understand in the passage? What answers did you find for your questions?

6. What application(s) for your life do you take away from this passage?

Digging deeper:

7. Do some research into the Day of the Lord? What is it? (Here are some verses to get you started. Amos 5:18-20; Isaiah 13:6-13; Zephaniah 3:8-20; 1 Thess. 4:16; 5:9-10)

8. What does it mean that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night?

9. Why will it surprise unbelievers? How will it affect unbelievers?

10. Why shouldn't followers of Christ be surprised by the coming of the Day of the Lord? What does it mean to be children of the light and children of the day?

11. What are some ways followers of Christ are prone to "get sleepy" with regard to the Lord's coming? How can we stay alert?

12. What "wrath" is being talked about in verse 9 and 10?

13. How would these verses be an encouragement to the Thessalonian believers? How can they be an encouragement to us?