

Preparing for the Day of the Lord

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Halifax: 5 November, 10:30 AM

Introduction

In our sermon series from Thessalonians, we have been looking at the different things that the Apostle Paul has been urging the Thessalonians to abound in.

- He began with a general call to abound in the opening two and half verses of chapter 4.
- The idea was that they were doing well in their walk with God, and should keep on abounding more and more!
 - This is the great privilege of the Christian life—there is always so much more to attain in our knowledge of Christ and our service to Him.
 - If you do not know our Lord Jesus, then you look at service to God as drudgery—
 - whether you are one who is labouring away to serve Him as a son of bondage, or one who is trying to avoid Him and get by with the bare minimum.
 - But what a delight it is for you who know His love and grace to know that there is so much more to do for Him with His help.

Paul has been taking up particular matters in our walk that we can abound in.

- In verses 2-8, he called us to abound in sexual purity—what a beautiful thing it is.
- In verses 9-12, he called us to abound in brotherly love—also a beautiful thing.
- in verses 13-18, which we looked at last week, he called us to abound in hope of Christ's coming.

As we saw last week, the Thessalonians were already abounding in this hope...

- In fact, they were so filled with delight about His coming that they were grieving when one of their brothers or sisters died because they assumed that they would not be able to the return of Christ.
 - They believed in the resurrection, but it was natural for them to suppose that the bodies of the dead would not be raised until after Jesus had come to earth.
 - They were filled with sorrow that they would not get to see Him coming in the clouds of glory.
- We saw how Paul corrected their fears.
 - He said that he did not want them to be ignorant about this, and told them that the Lord had shown him that the dead in Christ would be raised first.
 - He explained that they would actually go to meet Christ in the air when He was on the way to earth, and that we who are alive would go behind Him to meet Him too.
 - The word *meet* that he uses is a special word that is used of those who go out to meet an important person who is coming to visit.

What a tremendous hope this is.

- I exhorted you to abound in hope like the Thessalonians were doing.
 - What a day it will be to see our Lord Jesus in all of His glory, accompanied by angels and trumpets all of His people who have ever lived or are living on earth!

My brothers and sisters, this is a day that we have the delight of preparing for!

- Our whole lives should be lived in preparation for this day!
 - If you belong to Jesus (and all of you should come to Him), then it will be the day of our wedding as His bride—the whole church is His bride...

- And from this day forward, we will have the privilege of living with Him in His Father’s house!
 - The more we know the love and glory of our Lord, the more eager we are to prepare ourselves for Him!
 - If you don’t know Him in a true a saving way, then preparing for Him is just another burden put on you—but what a delight it is for you who know the Saviour.

In the passage we are looking at today—1 Thessalonians 5:1-11,

- Paul takes a question that was asked him by the Thessalonians about the timing of Christ’s coming and turns it around into a discussion about preparing themselves to live with Him.
 - How beneficial and encouraging this instruction must have been for them!
 - And how beneficial and encouraging it is for us when we read it today!

Let’s do that now. Please listen now as I read it to you—1 Thessalonians 5:1-11:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11: But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6

Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

May the Lord bless to us the reading of His holy and infallible word.

I. You can see that Paul begins by talking about the timing of the Day or the Lord.

- Chapter 5 begins with the words,
 - **But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.**
- A. The time of Christ’s return has always been a matter of great interest to God’s people.
 1. The Thessalonians had very likely inquired about it in connection with their concern that their deceased brothers and sisters would miss the Parousia.
 - As they were expressing their sorrow about this to Timothy, it only makes sense that they would ask how long it will be until Christ comes?
 - How many would die and have to miss out on this great day before He came?
 - Of course they were eager to see their Lord anyway,
 - but their concern about their deceased brothers and sisters made them even more desirous to know when it would be.

2. Paul's answer is very much in line with what the servants of the Lord in scripture always answer when asked about the time of Christ's return.
 - a. Paul tells them that we simply do not know!
 - 1) He says that His coming will be like a thief in the night—completely unannounced.
 - Thieves do not typically post their schedule on community websites.
 - It is their great interest to come when no one is expecting them.
 - 2) Paul even shows a bit of disapproval with them for even asking...
 - His tone comes through in the way he says, **you have no need that I should write to you because you know perfectly well that He will come as a thief in the night.**
 - This is not like their previous question about whether their departed brothers and sisters would miss Christ's coming...
 - About that question, Paul said, "I do not want you to be ignorant."
 - He did not say, as he does here about the timing, "you already know perfectly well about this!"
 - Clearly, they should have known that we do not know when Jesus will come.
 - b. We meet this answer again and again in scripture and the answer is always the same.
 - 1) The disciples asked it to Jesus when He was getting ready to ascend, and He also gives them a sharp reply.
 - We are given an account of it in Acts 1:6-7:
 - **Acts 1:6-7 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."**
 - He had clearly told them before that even He Himself did not know the time of His return.
 - He had told them that He would come as a thief in the night.
 - 2) In fact, when they asked about it in Matthew 24, He had expressly told them that there would be no signs at all.
 - He told them that there would be wars and rumours of wars, and many other disturbances—and people claiming to be Christ, but that the end would not be yet.
 - He even told them about the destruction of Jerusalem among these disturbances and how the abomination of desolation would be set up in that generation,
 - but as to His second coming, there would be no sign—he would come as a thief in the night.
 - 3) Yes, Jesus even illustrated this clearly by explaining that people would be going about their daily business when He suddenly appeared.
 - If anything, it will be a time when they are feeling perfectly secure—marrying and giving in marriage...buying and selling...

- As Paul says in verse 3, **For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.**
 - Suddenly the day will come, and like labour pains, there will be no way to turn back—the ordeal will be upon them.
- c. The church would have been saved a lot of grief and embarrassment for herself over the years if she had paid attention to this clear teaching about the timing of His return.
 - The pages of church history are littered with accounts of various date-setters who continue to this generation.
 - I was subjected to these as a new believer—men like Jack Van Impe preached with certainty that all the signs were in place—that Christ would have to come back before the 1980s were out.
 - More recently, there have been those like Harold Camping.
 - And there are those who are always interpreting revelation to refer to specific events in our current news...it never seems to end.
 - Usually, they turn what Jesus says about wars and rumours of wars *not* being the end into saying that they are signs of the end.
 - It is exactly the opposite of what He said:
 - **Mt 24:6 “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”**
 - All this speculation is a distraction to the people of God,
 - it causes doubts in the minds of believers and unbelievers about the reliability of scripture (even though it is the scripture that says we do not know when it will be) and it causes legitimate doubts about whether certain branches of the church can be taken seriously.
 - To all who ask, the clear answer from scripture is,
 - **1 Thess 5:2: You know perfectly well that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night.**

TRANS> But Paul, like his Master, takes this inappropriate speculative question and uses it to talk about what is profitable—being ready for the Day of the Lord.

- We will dig into the importance of being ready in just a moment, but first, I want to dwell on the term that Paul uses here to speak about the return of Christ.

B. *The Day of the Lord* is just that, the Day that above all days belongs to Him!

1. It is a term that is found repeatedly in the Old Testament.
 - a. It is often referred to as a day of dread when the LORD of glory will be revealed to His adversaries.
 - It is as if He is hidden from them now as they ignore Him day after day.
 - But when they day of the LORD comes, He will be fully revealed to their horror.
 - Amos addresses religious hypocrites in who spoke of wanting the LORD to come and said:
 - Amos 5:18: **Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light.**

- Joel said, (Joel 2:11), **For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it?**
 - Likewise, Isaiah said: **Isa 13:9: Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.**
- b. The idea is that the Day of the LORD is the day in which He reveals His glory.
- And that means that those who have ignored God and pretended that He does not exist and ought not to be regarded will be shown otherwise.
 - The truth that they have pushed away for so long—
 - that God is a just and loving God and that they are His creatures who ought to worship Him and serve Him—
 - will be brought upon them with irresistible force.
 - They will know in that day—when His glory is revealed—that it is not He, but they who have been wicked and unjust.
2. In the New Testament, we are shown that the Day of the LORD is in fact the Day of the Lord Jesus.
- a. The name of Jesus is inserted instead the name Yahweh (which is God’s divine name that means “I am.”)
- It shows His divinity as the only one who is self-existing.
- 1) So it is very significant that in the New Testament, the day is called “the Day of Christ (Phil 1:10),” the Day of Jesus Christ (Phil 1:6), the day of the Lord Jesus (2 Cor 1:14), and the Day of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:8).
- He is the one who comes, as He said of Himself:
 - Matthew 25:31: **in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him...** to sit on the throne of His glory and judge the nations...
- 2) You see from this that Jesus, who was spit upon, ignored as being the Son of God, and rejected... will be shown to be *Yahweh*, the Lord of all.
- The name Yahweh is translated by the word LORD written in all upper case letters in most of our English Old Testaments.
 - The Jews substituted the word *Lord* to avoid speaking this sacred name in a careless way.
 - The one with this sacred divine name turns out to be Jesus.
- So when Jesus comes, He will be seen as Lord of all!
- No one will deny His authority in that day!
 - It will be *His Day—The Day of the LORD*.
- b. And what a day it will be for those who are His!
- 1) In 2 Thessalonians 1:10, Paul speaks of His day as the day (**2Th 1:10**) **when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe.**
- When we see His glory, we will clearly see how wrongly we have treated Him and how gracious He has been to receive us.
 - We will see why clearly why it was necessary for Him to suffer in our place to secure our pardon.

- We will see how beautiful He is, how desirable, how majestic, how gracious and just and merciful and holy and wise.
 - We will be more delighted than ever to belong to Him!
 - It will be our day because it will be the day when our King and Saviour and LORD will be honoured and vindicated.
- 2) And you know what will happen when we see Him?
- Our bodies will be changed—they will be made incorruptible.
 - Our spirits will be perfected—just seeing Him with the powerful Holy Spirit dwelling in us will cause us to be done with sin forever.
 - Our enemies—Satan and all who oppose our glorious king—will be cast into the abyss forever...
 - And He will come forth to us to marry us as His bride.
 - He will delight in our beauty as perfected by Him—without spot or blemish...
 - He will present us to His Father and we will live with Him in His Father's house forever and ever.
 - Paul speaks of this at the end of our text in 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10: **For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.**
 - Whether we have died or whether we are still alive (Paul says this with reference to their concern about the dead),
 - we will all be gathered as His bride to live together with Him forever in His Father's house!
- 3) But it will be He Himself that will make us the most glad of all.
- Because we will see Him as He is—our delight will be in Him.
 - As Jay Adams says: **It is the Lord's Day. Too often Christians think only of what they will receive on that Day. While those things are true and wonderful, on that event no Christian will be admiring his new body; he will be glorifying His great Saviour, Jesus Christ—it is His Day.**

II. Paul identifies a radical divide in the human race about the day of the Lord.

- We hear a lot of racial divisions and political division, but here is a division of much greater concern than any of these.
- A. One group is looking for the day the LORD; the other group pays no attention to it.
- Paul initially distinguishes these two groups in verse 3.
1. The group that ignores his coming says, "Peace and safety"—not that they necessarily say these words—but they feel quite secure—
- and then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.
 - The day of the Lord makes no significant impression on them (and it ought to!) until that day comes—
 - And then suddenly it brings eternal death upon them, which is the most miserable of all deaths, because it brings an end to all that makes life worth living and leaves them in that misery forever.

2. The other group is introduced in verse 4 by these words:
 - **4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.**
 - The difference is not that they know *when* he is coming, but rather that they know *that* He is coming.
 - He comes, in their case, not as a thief at all to take away what they think they have, but rather to fulfill all that He has promised to them.
 - As we have already seen from verse 10, to take them to live with Him forever in His Father's house.
 - To complete them and to refine them and show them His love in marvellous ways, and to reveal His glorious person to them.
 - If you know Jesus, you are happily anticipating His coming and you are cheerfully preparing to meet Him day after day.

B. Paul uses strong contrasting words to show the difference in these two groups.

1. They are as different as night and day, as he says in verse 5:
 - **You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.**
 - We use night and day to contrast things that are entirely opposite...
 - And to be the son of something is to be characterised by it—in this case, by darkness on the one hand and by light on the other.
 - This contrast of day and night is very apt.
 - a. The sons of darkness are living their whole lives as if God is irrelevant.
 - It is so totally wrong!
 - They are completely missing the whole flow of history.
 - They do not see where we, the whole human race, are going.
 - They are riding on the train of life and they are doing business, and playing games, and eating and drinking as they ride along, but they have no concern about where they are going.
 - They are going to meet God whom they, in sinful defiance, have been disregarding—they have not taken Him seriously.
 - Oh yes, some of them may even become radical in various religions, but they have never taken the true and living God seriously.
 - If they had, they would have known that they are not at all ready to meet Him, despite all of their religious exercises...
 - And they would have sought Him in desperation for mercy and He would indeed have revealed Christ to them.
 - Now you will say, “but nobody does that!”
 - And of course you are right—there is none that seek after God.
 - b. This is what makes the sons of the light or of day entirely different.
 - 1) God has caused the light of His glory to shine upon us.
 - We were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord. He has shone in our hearts to give the light the glory of God to us through Christ.
 - His Spirit has enlightened us and raised us from the sleep of death.

- 2) It is a powerful operation that transforms us so that we are said to be light in the Lord...by His saving power.
 - We are naturally stubborn and resistant, and the only reason we ever come is because He prevails with us.
 - In some of us, He has been doing this since childhood so that we have known Him from our earliest days.
 - In others, He brought His grace to us with great power and force when we were older...
 - And with still others, more gradually.
 - 3) But those who have not come—the light has not shone in their hearts.
 - There is light about them, in creation, in their own conscience, and especially if they have been exposed to God's Word...
 - but they have not taken it seriously and have deliberately hidden themselves in the darkness.
2. The sons of darkness are contrasted with the sons of day because they do things that people do at night.
- a. First, they sleep... sleeping is done at night. In the day people are awake and watchful.
 - When a man sleeps, he may be dreaming about strolling through a park while his house is burning down—he is clueless.
 - 1) The sons of darkness are like that—life for them is like a dream...
 - They fill their lives with interesting hobbies and diversions.
 - They have goals that they are pursuing, trips that they are taking, and plans that they are making—all without reference to God and their desperate need to prepare to meet Him!
 - 2) Very often, because they are not focused on walking with Christ, they are obsessed with their own image in the world.
 - You have women who are constantly posting selfies and looking for affirmation—
 - You have men who are doing the same thing—with sports, with their bodies, with their clothes, with their possessions, with their achievements, with their careers, with their learning...
 - All of them oblivious to the fact that they are going to meet God their Maker—completely disregarding the day of the Lord.
 - 3) And there are others who are not worried much about their image, but are angry.
 - They may claim to be angry with God, or they may just be angry.
 - They spend their days venting in malice—grumbling, discontent.
 - They vent their anger on others, oppressing them, expressing anger and dissatisfaction and blame.
 - They do not take responsibility for their own actions.
 - b. A second thing that is done at night that Paul mentions is drunkenness...the sons of night are intoxicated and the sons of day are sober.

- This does not exclude being drunk with wine, but also encompasses a whole lot more...
- 1) For some it is things that are considered good...
 - The pursuit of education, service, music, art—even helping others.
 - But the problem is that these things are done without consideration of God—without serving Him—
 - without reconciling with Him or worshipping Him.
 - They are actually deliberately avoiding Him—because He is all around and cannot be missed without trying.
- 2) For others, the diversion is into things that are not considered good...
 - They remove themselves from God by filling their lives with wine, with drugs, with protests, with porn, with entertainment...
 - They live for the weekends and all the while ignore the call of God.
 - Perhaps they just play video games all the way to judgement day.
 - never thinking that the purpose of all history is to give glory to God.
 - never thinking how wrong it is of them to never seriously worship Him or acknowledge Him...
 - never seeking forgiveness from God for their sins...
 - They are drunk with life at the judgment throne of God!

TRANS> So you can see how the sons of day and the sons of night are completely opposite.

III. And now I want you to see how Paul advises us to live as sons of the day.

- If that is what we are, then that is how we should live.
- A. The danger is that we will be swept into the malaise of the world—
 1. When the people of the world are ignoring God, it is easy for us to ignore Him too—for us to fall asleep with them and to be intoxicated with them.
 - You can see the direct warning in verse 6-8:
 - **Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober,**
 - If nobody else is paying attention to God, we can just blend right into such a life with them—it is very easy to do if you do not stay alert.
 - You can lose sight of the fact that you are going to live with Jesus and that He is at work in you to prepare you for that day.
 2. Scripture warns us repeatedly about this danger.
 - a. Peter speaks about the problem of growing weary in waiting for Jesus to come in 2 Peter 3.
 - He talks about scoffers who say, **“Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”**
 - Forgetting completely that the whole world was wiped out in the day of Noah!
 - And then he urges you to (vs 17 & 18) **beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ but grow**

in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever.

- b. Jesus also frequently warned His disciples about falling asleep in the world because we grow tired of waiting for Him to come.
 - Here are two times in Luke when He gave this warning.
 - **Luke 12:45-46: But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, ⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.**
 - In Luke 21:34, he also speaks about the day of the Lord: **But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.**
 - c. In our day, the world tries to pull us into the post-modern mindset that there is no absolute truth...
 - It tries to draw us into a dream world where there is no clear right and wrong, no heaven and hell, no creature/creator distinction.
 - We need to stay awake and sober in this world of darkness that is intoxicated with its own ideas.
 - We are moving quickly to the day when we will meet our Maker...
 - and it is our task to come to Christ now and to walk with Him so that we will be prepared to meet Him.
- B. What should you do to keep yourself alert?
- Paul tells the Thessalonians two things—and both apply to us...
1. First, you need to put on your armour!
 - Look at verse 8: **But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.**
 - a. Faith and love are like a breastplate to protect your heart...
 - 1) You came to faith when you believed the word of God—even the gospel of your salvation...
 - a) You took God seriously in what He says!
 - You believed that God is God—that He is light and that there is no darkness in Him—that He is holy and righteous.
 - And you also came to believe through the gospel that He is gracious and full of love and so sent His Son to redeem sinners.
 - You believe that the Son of God became flesh and died on the cross to atone for His people’s sins.
 - And you trusted in Jesus so much that you put yourself into His hands for salvation—
 - By faith you joined yourself to Him for forgiveness of sin and to live in Him—to be His forever.

- b) This faith protects you like armour against a world that says that God is not holy, and that He is not gracious and loving, that His word cannot be trusted...
 - That following Him will ruin you instead of saving you.
 - That you will miss out on all that the world has for you.
 - It will point out that you will lose your life, which is true, but it will not point out that you will lose it in order to find it.
 - c) You need to continue in faith...holding on to the truth of God's Word.
 - That is the point at which Satan attacks—*hath God said! Why is God not letting you do all that you want to do?*
 - You need to feed your faith by continuing in the word, sacraments, and prayer.
- 2) And love goes hand in hand with faith
- When you see how Jesus has loved you, and how the Father has loved you—it stirs up love in your heart for them!
 - When you feel your heart growing cold and doubting God, you are being pulled into the darkness and need to put on love.
 - Let me advise you to begin your prayers by considering how good God is—how He has loved you—how Christ has loved you...
 - Refresh yourself in His love daily and then pray for Him to work in you and others and fill you with love to Him and to one another.
 - Love will serve as armour to protect your heart from all the slander of Satan and the world about God.
 - Instead of falling asleep, you will toil in love for God and for others like the Thessalonians did.
- b. And hope is like a helmet to protect your head.
- 1) We saw how hope is stressed in Paul's letter to the Thessalonians...
 - It is stressed because they were in times of persecution.
 - And the temptation is to grow weary and give up.
 - To listen to the voice Peter speaks of that says, "Where is the promise of His coming?"
- 2) Hope protects you because it makes you sure that He who said that He would come will come.
 - He does not make promises that He does not keep.
 - You are in Christ—and, as it says in verse 9-10: **For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.**
- 3) Keep that future before you.
 - You are in Christ and you are not going to meet with God's wrath on the day of the Lord; you are going to live together with Jesus!
 - You have come to Jesus, and that means that God will not destroy you any more than He would destroy His Son!

- He has graciously tied you together with Jesus to live with Him and that mean that where He is, you will be also...
 - The favour that He has—you will have also.
 - The forgiveness that He procured for Him and His church He has procured for all who truly united to Him by faith.
 - 4) You can't fall asleep if you live in this hope—if you keep the helmet of hope on...
 - Why should you look to ignore the coming day of the Lord?
 - It is the very thing that you are living for!
 - It is the very thing that you are being prepared for through Jesus!
 - c. But understand—you are instructed to put this armour on!
 - You are to put on faith, love, and hope.
 - It is a conscious thing that you are to do.
 - Armour does not put itself on.
 - You are to continue in the word, sacraments, and prayer...
 - Wearing this armour will keep you awake and vibrant in preparing for the day of the Lord.
 - It will keep you from falling asleep and getting intoxicated with the unbelieving world around.
 - You will be looking for and hastening the day of the LORD.
 - You will be busy making preparations for you and for your Christian brothers and sisters to live with Him.
- And that brings us to the second thing that Paul tells you to do to stay awake and sober...
2. Help each other to stay focused on the day of the Lord.
- Verse 11 says: **Therefore** [because we are appointed to live with Christ] **comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.**
 - a. First let's look at the two words here—comfort and edify...
 - 1) The word *comfort* is parakaleo...
 - That word that we have run into so many times in Thessalonians that means to come alongside someone in need to help them.
 - We have seen that it is translated with lots of different helping words such as *comfort, exhort, encourage, plead, beg, urge...*
 - It has to do with coming to stir each other up in service to God.
 - 2) And to *edify*, that is a building term that Paul took over as a ministry word...
 - It means to build each other up.
 - not to build up self-esteem the way the world does...
 - Don't put the world's application on it...
 - That is the last thing we need for following Jesus...
 - The building up here is to build up the faith, love, and hope in each other by speaking the truth of God's word to each other...

- We are looking to build up each other in the knowledge of Christ that we might trust Him and love Him and have hope in Him.
- b. These words remind you that you **are** your brother's keeper!
- You are not to sit by and watch each other drift into the malaise of the world—no way—how can you let your brother or sister do that?
 - If you see them falling asleep. go to them and wake them up!
 - If you see them getting intoxicated with the world, go and call them out on it—in love to them.
 - As I told you parents last week...don't be content if your children are being peaceful...
 - See that they are encouraged and built up in faith, love, and hope!
 - See that they are walking with Christ.
 - Walk with them, walk together—following Him and learning of Him and thanking Him and preparing to live with Him.
 - Yes, we are to be busy helping each other to prepare for that great day when He will come and take us to live with Him in His Father's house.
- c. Many of you are doing this, and if you are, I say to you as Paul said to the Thessalonians,
- keep on comforting and edifying each other, **just as you are doing!**
 - If not, then it is high time you get started.

Conclusion:

The day of the LORD is a marvellous day to prepare for.

- Keep it ever before you that this day is coming.
- In it, Jesus will be glorified and if we have come to Him to live with Him now (by faith), we will also live with Him when He comes.
 - Now that is something worth preparing for!