

# Letter to the Thessalonians:

To the church of the Thessalonians:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

-Paul-

# 1 Thessalonians 5

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1 Now about the times and seasons, brothers, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

3 While people are saying, “Peace and security,” then destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

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6 So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but let us  
keep awake and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who  
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having put on the breastplate of faith and love,  
and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

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9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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## Zephaniah 1

14 The great Day of the LORD is near—  
near and coming quickly.

Listen, the Day of the LORD!

Then the cry of the mighty will be bitter.

15 That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of trouble and distress,  
a day of destruction and desolation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and blackness,

16 a day of horn blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities,  
and against the high corner towers.

## Zephaniah 1

17 I will bring such distress on mankind that they will walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them on the Day of the LORD's wrath.

The whole earth will be consumed by the fire of His jealousy.”

For indeed, He will make a sudden end of all who dwell on the earth.

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## Acts 1

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority."

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2 not to be easily disconcerted or alarmed by any spirit or message or letter seeming to be from us, alleging that the Day of the Lord has come.

3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for it will not come **until** the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness—the son of destruction—is revealed.

4 He will oppose and exalt himself above every so-called god or object of worship. So he will seat himself in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

5 **Do you not remember that I told you these things while I was still with you?**

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## 2 Peter 3

10 But the Day of the Lord will come like a **thief.**

The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid bare.

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## Revelation 16

15“Behold, I am coming like a **thief.**

Blessed is the one who remains awake and clothed, so that he will not go naked and let his shame be exposed.”



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## 7 Characteristics of a Person Who is “Awake and Sober” and Ready for Christ’s Return

1. One who has a constant awareness of the extreme priority of the eternal over the temporal. (Matthew 24:36-51 / Matthew 25:1-13 / Revelation 16:15)

## Matthew 24

36 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming (parousia) of the Son of Man.

38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark.

39 And they were oblivious, until the flood came and swept them all away.

So will it be at the coming (parousia) of the Son of Man.

## Matthew 24

40 Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

42 Therefore **keep watch**, because you do not know the day on which your Lord will come.

43 But understand this: If the homeowner had known in which watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have **kept watch** and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 For this reason, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect.

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## Luke 12

35 Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning.

36 Then you will be like servants waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks, they can open the door for him at once.

37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds **on watch** when he returns.

42 And the Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their portion at the proper time?”



## Luke 12

43 Blessed is that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

44 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

45 But suppose that servant says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and he begins to beat the menservants and maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk.

46 The master of that servant will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not anticipate.

Then he will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

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## Acts 20

28"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

29"I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

31"Therefore **be on the alert**, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

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4. One who is watchful through prayer and thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)

## Colossians 4

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, **keeping alert** in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

## 1 Peter 4

7 The end of all things is near.

Therefore be clear-minded and **sober**, so that you can pray.

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5. One who is on the alert for the deceptions, temptations, and schemes of the devil. (1 Peter 5:8-10)

1 Peter 5

8 Be sober-minded and **alert**. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

9 Resist him, standing firm in your faith

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6. One who is faithful to strengthen and stir up others in the church. (Revelation 3:1-3)



## Revelation 3

1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

2 **Wake up**, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

3 So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent.

Therefore if you do not **wake up**, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

## Hebrews 10

25 Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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7. One who has fixed their hope fully on the coming of Christ; who has a mind that is set on things above and lives every day as if it were the last. (1 Peter 1:13)

1 Peter 1

13 Therefore prepare your minds for action.

Be **sober-minded**.

Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

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# Morning Dedication

Almighty God,

As I cross the threshold of this day

I commit myself, soul, body,  
affairs, friends, to Thy care;

Watch over, keep, guide, direct, sanctify, bless me.

Incline my heart to thy ways;

Mould me wholly into the image of Jesus,  
as a potter forms clay;

May my lips be a well-tuned harp  
to sound Thy praise;

# Morning Dedication

Let those around see me living by Thy Spirit,  
trampling the world underfoot,  
unconformed to lying vanities,  
transformed by a renewed mind,  
clad in the entire armour of God,  
shining as a never-dimmed light,  
showing holiness in all my doings.

Let no evil this day soil my thoughts, words, hands.  
May I travel miry paths with a life pure from spot  
or stain.



# Morning Dedication

In needful transactions let my affection

be in heaven,

and my love soar upwards in flames of fire,

my gaze fixed on unseen things,

my eyes open to the emptiness, fragility,

mockery of earth and its vanities.

May I view all things in the mirror of eternity,

waiting for the coming of my Lord,

listening for the last trumpet call,

hastening unto the new heaven and earth.

# Morning Dedication

Order this day all my communications  
according to Thy wisdom,  
and to the gain of mutual good.

Forbid that I should not be profited  
or made profitable.

May I speak each word as if my last word,  
and walk each step as my final one.

If my life should end today,  
let this be my best day.