

# Chesswood Baptist Church

**Where Everybody is Somebody**

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### THEREFORE LET US NOT SLEEP, AS DO OTHERS

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 29, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-6**

**1 Thessalonians 5:6,** Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; *but let us watch and be sober.*

## 1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please see the July 22, 2018 Evening Message for the Background

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Having looked at the subject matter, God is telling us that we are not to sleep as do other and confirms that the Church is not appointed to wrath. This is confirmed in **Revelation 3:10,** *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*
- b. With the aforementioned thought in mind, we should go to bed and get a good night rest.
- c. As a matter of fact, if we live everyday for the Lord Jesus Christ, every night can be a restful night. We must remember after salvation we have the privilege to enjoy the abundant life. **John 10:10,** *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

- d. As we come to this final chapter, we will see God prescribes certain missions for believers as we wait for His second coming. **John 14:1-3**, *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2: In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
- e. There are certain actions that we are to display. The attitude of a believer has to be right first displaying the fruit of the Spirit. We are also commanded to add to our faith. **Galatians 5:22-23**, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23: Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 2 Peter 1:5-9*, *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6: And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7: And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8: For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9: But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*
- f. Attitude should lead to action. We should understand that Christ is coming again.
- g. He is not asking us to sit around and sleep; He tells us we are to be alert and sober. **Matthew 26:41**, *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.* He also tells us to work while it is day. **John 9:4**, *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*
- h. We need to be students of the Word of God. **2 Timothy 2:15**, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

- i. The believer in Christ is awakened to the fact that the second coming of Christ is a part of the salvation package He has promised us. **2 Peter 1:4**, *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and **precious promises**: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. **Ephesians 1:13-14**, In whom ye also **trusted**, after that ye **heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that **ye believed, ye were sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise, **14**: Which is the **earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*
- j. Our subject brings into view The Great Tribulation Period. It is labeled as the Day of the Lord and the believer is preserved and protected from entering into this period. **Psalms 37:28**, *For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not **his saints; they are preserved for ever**: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.*
- k. The Day of the Lord will begin at night in the evening.
- l. If you remember God starts with the evening. **Genesis 1:5**, *And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*
- m. God begins at night and moves toward the light of day.
- n. The great tribulation period will lead us into the glorious Millennium where Jesus Christ will sit on the throne and rule and reign for a thousand years.
- o. He is the Son of Righteousness. He will have healing in His wings. **Malachi 4:2-3**, *But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. **3**: And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.*
- p. The Day of the Lord is a term we need to make sure we have clear. It is not for the Church; the Church is gone at that time. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**, *But I would not have you to be*

ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **14:** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **15:** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **16:** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17:** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **18:** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

- q. With that Introduction let's get into the meat of the message and see what we can glean from God's precious Word today.

### 3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

#### a. But of the times and the seasons.

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:1,** But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
2. It is very interesting that God starts this passage off speaking of times and seasons.
3. Israel is God's time-clock. He not only deals with Israel in time but seasons as well.
4. This indicates it relates to an earthly people with earthly promises.
5. Both Israel and the Gentiles in that day will have multitudes saved.
6. We also know that the Church is not looking for times and seasons; the Church is looking for the personal return of Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17,** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds,

*to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

7. In order to rightly divide the Word of Truth and avoid mass confusion, we must be careful to give to Israel what rightfully belongs to Israel and to the Church what is rightfully hers.

**b. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord.**

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:2, For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord** *so cometh as a thief in the night.*
2. The Lord does not come for the Church as a thief in the night. As a matter of fact, every born-again believer who knows Jesus as Saviour from Pentecost to the Rapture, will meet Him in the air.
3. He comes as a thief in the night to an unsaved and unbelieving world.
4. Not a single individual who does not know Jesus Christ as Saviour will go in the Rapture.
5. This is only for the Bride of Christ; those who have made prior reservations.
6. The unsaved world will not understand what is happening at that time.
7. The Church will not go through the Day of the Lord; it will begin suddenly at night with the Tribulation Period.
8. At the end of The Great Tribulation Period Christ will return personally to establish His kingdom on the face of the earth.
9. He is directing activities on Earth from the very Throne of God during the tribulation period.
10. The Day of the Lord will come suddenly.

**c. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh.**

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:3, For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh** *upon them, as*



*travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

2. As we look at the term *“sudden destruction cometh upon them,”* we know it does not apply to the Church.
3. The unsaved and unbelieving world will say *“Peace and safety;”*
4. When peace and safety is taught then *“sudden destruction cometh upon them...”*
5. I do not know what it means to have a child, nor do I know the pains that are associated with it.
6. I do know the pains of birth come on suddenly; you cannot plan for it.
7. When people think all is well, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh.
8. The Day of the Lord is a period of time that begins at night and goes on until the Millennium.
9. There are many passages of Scripture that bear this fact out. **Isaiah 13:9-10**, *Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. 10: For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. Joel 1:15*, *Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. Joel 2:2*, *A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.*
10. This pictures the Old Testament Day of the Lord as it was described for them.
11. The theme of the Old Testament in many chapters the Church Age was hidden from the prophets. There is no mention in the Old Testament of the Church being taken

out of this world. **Colossians 1:26**, *Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:*

12. There were Enoch and Elijah who represented the Rapture of the Church, but it was not taught as a doctrine back then.
13. **John 14:2-3** is where that is announced. *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
14. There is a big lie floating around the world. Peace and safety. God's Word is true; there will be no peace until the Lord Jesus Christ sits on the throne. **Proverbs 29:2**, *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*
15. We are warned to take heed. **Colossians 2:8**, *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*
16. The era of peace will be during the Millennium.

**d. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness.**

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:4-5**, **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness,** *that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5: Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*
2. God speaks to His own precious bride. He does two things: He says the day of grace will end one of these days at the Rapture of the Church and also it will begin the Day of the Lord at the beginning of the Tribulation Period.
3. *But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.* – Why not? Because they are members of the body of Christ; it will not come to them as a thief. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, *For the Lord himself shall*

descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17:** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

4. *"Ye are all the children of light,"* Believers are not a part of the dispensation where the Jews are going through the Tribulation. This is a special day of grace starting on the Day of Pentecost. **Acts 15:14**, *Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.*
5. We are to have a working knowledge of the entire Scriptures before we are dogmatic about any particular doctrine. **John 7:17**, *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*
6. God divides His Word into dispensations and we must understand that the Church is a part of the Dispensation of Grace and **not** the Dispensation of the Law. **Ephesians 3:2-5**, *If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 3: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4: Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5: Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;*
7. The Church is not in darkness because we are the light of the world. **Matthew 5:14**, *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*
8. The Church looks for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of Jesus Christ. **Titus 2:13**, *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*



9. Paul tells us in the next point as to what we are to do while we wait for the coming of Christ.

**e. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others.**

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:6**, Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
2. To watch means we must be alert; to be active and busy.
3. To be sober means to be aware of our surroundings and be a student of the Preserved Word of God. It does not speak or pertain to alcoholic beverages in this verse. **1 Peter 5:8**, *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*
4. We need to know the Word of God; we need to know the signs of the times as to what is happening in the world.
5. In order to put everything in perspective, we must know the Scriptures and in whom we have believed. **2 Timothy 1:12**, *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*
6. Do you know the Lord?
7. **Romans 13:11**, *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.* – Salvation is not a process; it is knowing Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. We must keep in mind that our salvation exists in three tenses.
  1. **Justification** – is instantaneous just like I have never sinned.
  2. **Sanctification** – is progressive to grow in grace in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
  3. **Glorification** – when Jesus returns and call us in the rapture we will receive our glorified bodies.
8. When we do know Him our soul is saved, not our body until the second coming of Christ at the end of the Rapture. **Hebrews 10:39**, *But we are not of them who draw back*

*unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

9. Our activity, pending the Lord's coming, is to watch and be sober.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- a. If you have never come to the side of the Crucified Christ this needs to be your day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6:2**, *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*
- b. When your day of salvation has arrived, the Holy Spirit will trouble your heart; He will draw you and you must yield to the power of God's Spirit.
- c. Those who are not troubled by the sin of unbelief will never get saved.
- d. If you cannot recognize that you are lost, you cannot get saved.
- e. Man is totally depraved without Jesus Christ. There is not one ounce of divinity in us.
- f. It is only through the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that we can have eternal life.
- g. Come to the table of salvation today.
- h. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- i. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- j. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- k. **2 Peter 1:4**, *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. John 10:27-29, My sheep hear my voice,*

and I know them, and they follow me: **28:** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. **29:** My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. **2 Timothy 1:12,** For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. **Romans 8:38-39,** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 John 5:13, These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

k. Please stand.

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