

February 14, 2010

Sons and Daughters of the Day

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; John 3:19-21

When you hear some church person or Bible teacher talk about the “Day”, what are they talking about? Do you think we will be surprised when it arrives? Do you dread it coming? Do you eagerly anticipate it? Do you think about it at all? What happens when you DO think about it?

1. Chapter 5, vss. 1-3. Why are we not to be surprised by the return of Jesus? If he comes like a *thief in the night*, does that mean we will be caught off-guard? What kinds of things DO catch you off-guard? Did you have an “ah-ha moment” the day your child started school? Or graduated? Does it ever seem like the forces of darkness are winning? If we don’t want to be caught off-guard by Jesus’ return, what should we be looking for? What are some signs to indicate it is near? **Matt 24:4:14**. If Jesus were to return tonight, would you be ready for Him? What would you need to do to be ready? **Matt 24:44**.

2. vss. 4-5. Do you sometimes feel like you are spiritually ‘in the dark’? What would it take to help you feel assured that you are ‘in the light’? **Hebrews 10:25**. To live as a son or daughter of the day means we are:

1. alert to the signs of the times
2. striving for holy living
3. encouraging the brothers and sisters in Christ

3. vss. 6-7. Have you experienced any event recently that ‘caught you sleeping’? Has that event caused you to become more alert? Alert to what? Why would Paul talk about these bad things happening *at night*? What does *alert* and *self-control* have to do with being ready for Jesus’ return? Does this mean there is never a time when we can relax in the Lord? Does it have to be white-knuckle time all the time? **Matt 25:1-13**. Have you been involved in any activity that would embarrass you if Jesus were to catch you doing it?

4. vs. 8. What will *faith, hope, and love* do for us? **Eph 6:11;14-17**. What does it mean that you *belong to the day*? Is that the Day of Jesus, or just a comparison to darkness? Do you have self-control? How do we develop that fruit?

5. vss. 9-11. We are not destined for suffering in eternity. We are destined for Glory! What does it mean that *awake or asleep, we may live together with Him*. Are you certain of that? Why or why not? Have you taken time to encourage someone this week? Have you received encouragement this week? How do we build each other up? What usually prevents us from doing that? Can we do that more? Why or why not?

6. John 3:19. What is a *verdict*? Can you truly say you love the light that Jesus has brought into this world? Why do some people love darkness rather than the light of Jesus?

7. vss. 20-21. Is there still some part of yourself that you try to cloak in darkness so the world cannot see who you truly are? Can that be a successful strategy? Who can see through the darkness, even when friends or family cannot? Who is the one who is truly fooled by such a lifestyle?

In terms of light and darkness, where are you mostly living right now?

- Alaskan winter...it's midnight all the time
- Early morning. The light is coming, but not quite here yet
- A cloudy day. It's dimmer or a little filtered.
- High noon! Bright light surrounds my life
- Twilight. I feel the darkness closing in on me
- Other?_____

What keeps you most spiritually alert right now?

- Encouragement of Christian friends
- Working for Jesus in some ministry
- My private devotional life
- Worship at WCC
- Good sermons
- Reading Christian authors' works
- SS class or small group
- Praying
- Christian music or radio
- Other?_____

What can you do to make the power of darkness lose its power over us?

Why do you have hope for eternity? Can you share that with another person? Why would you want to do that?

