

**GOD'S ADMONITION TODAY**

Read 1 Thes. 5:6-10

**BELOVED OF THE LORD:**

Following his contrast between the destiny of Christians and the unbelieving world (Cp. 1 Thes. 4:13-18 and 1 Thes. 5:5), the Apostle writes a solemn admonition. The world is in darkness, of the night, but believers are in the light, children of the day. Paul admonishes us -- "Let us not sleep," meaning a state of insensibility, warning not to fall into it, presenting a three-fold responsibility:

1. **CHRISTIAN SOBRIETY** -- "Let us watch and be sober." A call to mental alertness and vigilance, opposite to this sleeping world -- verse 7. The word "sober" usually means "freedom from intoxicants," freedom from excitability, denoting **STABILITY!** It is Christian sobriety of spiritual maturity, the result of self-control through spiritual growth in the knowledge of the Word of God. This stability is greatly needed in these days of evil and apostasy.
2. **BREASTPLATE OF FAITH AND LOVE** -- "putting on the breastplate of faith and love" -- verse 8. The "breastplate" is practical righteousness -- see. Eph. 6:14. **FAITH** is the proper attitude toward the Lord Jesus and **LOVE** is the proper attitude toward fellow Christians -- See Col. 1:4 and Philemon 5. **RIGHT** living, **RIGHT** faith toward the Lord and **RIGHT** love toward the saints -- see 1 John 5:1-3.
3. **THE HELMET OF SALVATION** -- "A helmet, the hope of salvation" -- vs 8. This epistle is the epistle of **HOPE!** Surrounded by a world that seeks ease and pleasure, we are to have our eyes directed to the future -- **THE COMING OF THE LORD FOR HIS SAINTS.** -- and to resist the Spirit of the age in which we live. The word "Salvation" here means the "Redemption of the body" -- See Rom. 8:23, Phil. 3:20,21. Wear your "helmet" beloved believer -- "Looking for that **BLESSED HOPE**" -- Tit. 2:13

**GOD'S SOVEREIGN PURPOSE FOR US:** "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain Salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" -- vs. 9. The wrath of God, with sudden destruction, awaits the world -- but not the believer! Note 1 Thes. 1:9-10 and 2Thes. 1:7-9. All this based upon "Our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, whether we wake or sleep (in death) we should live together with Him!" -- vs. 10. Our salvation, all the way **BY GRACE!** -- The Lord will keep His promise -- John 14:1-3

**APPLICATION:** God calls us to be in a state of vigilance and expectancy -- not to be in a state of laxity and indifference. "Therefore, let us not sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober" This is our responsibility today! - Mark 13:37.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

