

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. We were not looking for praise from

people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom

and strengthen that you will and holy in the presence of our God when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. It is God's will that you should avoid sexual immorality. And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and your hands, you. Brothers do not want

ry. May he your hearts so be blameless like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. For God did not appoint us

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Objectives: We want to encourage one another with the truths of the second coming of Jesus. We want to live our lives in light of these truths by being alert and self-controlled.

We want to interact with people who do not know Jesus in light of His second coming.

Launch:

What has stuck with you from last weeks study? What do you remember? What has challenged you? What has encouraged you?

Explore: 1 Thess. 4:13-4:18; 5:1-11

This week we are going to focus on 5:1-11. Re-read 5:1-11.

- What are major themes Paul contrasts to make his points? (*light/darkness; day/night; security/destruction; wrath/salvation; death/life*)
- The Bible often uses darkness and light to describe the Christian life. Read 1 John 2:7-11.
- The diagram on page 2 describes what John is talking about in 2:8.

Between the resurrection and return of Jesus is a time called “the last days”. Acts 2:17-21; 2 Tim 3:1; Hebrews 1:1-2 all are clear that we are currently living in the last days. There is still darkness but John states that it is passing away and the true light is already shining. In our passage Paul states that Christians are children of light. Light characterizes us, not darkness.

- Describe the attitudes and behavior of those who are still in spiritual darkness?

- What is the reality of people who live in darkness?
- What, in contrast, does Paul say about those who belong to the light?
- How would your life look differently if you were truly living out your identity as a son/daughter of light?

It seems like the people in Thessalonica were trying to set the date for Christ’s return.

- What is so appealing about trying to figure out the date of Christ’s second coming?
- Why do you think we are not told when He will return?
- In what ways will the Lord’s coming be like “a thief in the night?”
- In what ways will it be like “labor pains on a pregnant woman?”
- Since the return of the Lord will be sudden and unavoidable, how should we as Christians live?

Paul’s answer is found in v. 6. – Be self-controlled and alert.

- What does it mean to be alert?
- What does it mean to be self-controlled?
- What could it look like for us at MSU to be self-controlled and alert?
- In what ways do you need to be more self-controlled and alert?
- What are some of the things that are true of people who follow Christ? (*children of light, not children of wrath, Christ died for us so we could be with Him, we have been given armor*)

- What should we encourage one another with from this passage? (*Jesus is returning; we are not children of wrath but will obtain salvation; we are children of light; we have been given armor to live in the midst of the dark world; we get to live with Christ*)

Apply: (at least 15 minutes)

- How would your life be different you lived as if this is not your home but Christ is preparing your real home? If you believed He was truly coming back again?
- What is one application you can take away today?

