



# Under Construction

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

<sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.



**Here is the BIG IDEA in this lesson:**

*God has called us to build up one another spiritually and lovingly.*

## Introduction:

The letters to the church at Thessalonica open a window to give us some rare, yet practical, insight into the dynamic involvement in building a young, multi-racial church. Born in a hostile environment in the first century, the believers of Thessalonica had a great opportunity for widespread witness. Here we find a wonderful example of *how the Gospel creates the church*, *how the church spreads the Gospel*, and *how the Gospel shapes the church as the church seeks to live a life that is worthy of the Gospel*.

The context of this passage finds the Apostle addressing two important subjects that believers can struggle with in their journey:

1. What happens after death? Where are our loved ones? Will we see them again? (4:13-18)
2. What will the Day of Judgment be like? How can we prepare for it? (5:1-28)

The first is a question of **bereavement**—what hope do we have? The second is a question of **employment**—what shall we do to prepare ourselves in the meantime?

With that in mind, let us approach this chapter with an expectant heart and teachable spirit.



## Lesson: Thinking Truth Through

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- A. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:1, what did the people think would help them to prepare for the great Day of Judgment?
- B. Why is this a wrong solution for preparation, according to these verses?
- Mark 13:32-37
  - Acts 1:7
  - Matthew 24:44
- C. What are the two metaphors that Paul uses to illustrate how the Lord will come? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3.
- D. What is true of both illustrations?
- E. What is different between them?
- F. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8 and answer the following questions. They give Paul's solution to the question of preparation.
- Why are we not to be surprised at the Lord's return? (vv.4-5)
  - How are we to behave? Or, what should we be? (v.6)
  - What are three reasons people are unprepared for a burglar? (v.7)
  - How are we to get prepared? (v.8)
- G. In verse 8, Paul lists three spiritual qualities (Christian virtues) that are evidence of true salvation and sanctification. What are they? (Cf. 1 Cor.13:13)
- H. According to verses 9-10, Paul tells us that *who we are* and *where we are going* stands firmly on two Gospel facts. What are they?

- I. What are we mutually called to do in light of who we are and what God has done for us, according to verse 11?

### **BUILDING DEFINED:**

The word *"build"* ("oikodome") speaks of the process of building as well as spiritual profit or advancement of those being built up.

### **BUILDING DEMONSTRATED:**

What is God's primary tool for building up the church? Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-5. (*Cf. v.26; Eph.4:11-12*)

What are the means for the building up of one another?

- Acts 20:32
- 1 Corinthians 8:1
- Jude 20
- 1 Peter 2:4-5
- Colossians 2:7

Building up someone else requires three additional elements. What are they?

1. Romans 14:19
2. 2 Corinthians 12:19
3. 1 Corinthians 10:23

What hinders the building up of the church?

- Ephesians 4:29
- 2 Corinthians 10:8; 13:10
- 1 Corinthians 8:9; Romans 14:20

### **BUILDING DISCERNED:**

What are four evidences that the church is being built up spiritually? Read Acts 9:31.



## Application: Making Truth Stick

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### A poem to ponder:

I watch them tearing a building down, a gang of men in a busy town.  
With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell, they swung a beam, and the sidewall fell.  
I asked the foreman: "Are these men skilled? And the men you'd hire if you had to build?"  
He gave a laugh and said: "No indeed. Just common labor is all I need.

With them I can wreck in a day or two, what builders have taken years to do."  
So I thought to myself as I went my way, "Which of these roles have I tried to play?  
Am I a builder who works with care, measuring life by the rule and square?  
Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan, patiently doing the best I can?  
Or am I a wrecker, who walks the town, content with the labor of tearing down?"

### What kind of laborer are you?

<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

### Being a doer of the Word (2 Tim.3:16)

1. What did I learn ("teaching")?
2. Where do I fall short ("reproof")?
3. What do I need to do about it ("correction")?
4. How can I make this a consistent part of my life ("training")?

## Answer Key

### Lesson: Thinking Truth Through

- A. knowing the date of Christ's return
- B.
  - because no one can know the day
  - it is a time sovereignly fixed—meant for Himself
  - Jesus teaches that not knowing is a part of God's plan
- C. thief and birth pains
- D. both come suddenly
- E. one is unexpected and the other is inescapable
- F.
  - because of who we are
  - alert and self-controlled
  - they sleep, they are drunk, it is night
  - be battle ready—properly equipped
- G. faith, love, and hope
- H. God's sovereign election and Christ's sacrificial death
- I. encourage and build up one another

#### **BUILDING DEMONSTRATED:**

word ministry gifts

- the Word of His grace
- love
- corporate fellowship
- allowing yourself to be built up; willingness
- being established in your faith

Building up someone else requires three additional elements. What are they?

1. pursuing peace—right motives
2. giving testimony of what God is doing in your life
3. wisdom

What hinders the building up of the church?

- unwholesome words
- abuse of spiritual authority
- abuse of spiritual liberties

**BUILDING DISCERNED:**

enjoying peace, growing in the fear of the Lord, being strengthened by the Holy Spirit, growing numerically  
*(note: not all churches that are growing spiritually grow numerically at the same rate)*

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