

*We must understand & know enough about the last days to be a child of light.

*The Contrast in the last days and the messages the Church must share.

*1 Thessalonians 5:1 (NKJV) But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes <u>as a thief in the night</u>. 3 For <u>when they say</u>, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of <u>light and sons of the day</u>. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

1. V:1-2 The thief in the night message. The days leading to the rapture are the darkest days for those without Jesus until they are surpassed by great tribulation.

The light keeps us ready for the greatest day in a Christian life, being ready to see Jesus face to face.

V:3-6 The peace and safety message. Those living in darkness are getting the wrong message.
A. Watchmen & women: Can discern deception and shine the light of the Word of God.

Learn who is giving what false message. When they say, Peace and safety, we know that sudden destruction is coming.

B. Sober Christians: Are not intoxicated by the lies and rebellion against a holy God. We may have feelings of sadness, but the promise is we will experience the light in a greater portion than ever before.

3. V:6-10 The edifying message. We've been prepared for this day and protected by God's provision over our hearts and minds.

Whether we die or live we understand this truth we are with Christ the hope of glory.

*How good leadership acts in the last days.

*1 Thessalonians 5:12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast to what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

1. V:12-15 The spirit of leadership and its characteristics. Exhortation, warnings, comfort, strength for the weak, and patience for all are these traits we are to show. Always pursue good for yourself and others.

We must be messengers of transformation. In this hour we are seeing blind eyes opened, and hearts transformed. Listen to the testimony of <u>Arianna Amour</u>.

2. V:16-20 The Identity and practices of followers of Jesus.

A. Rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks are essential to the follower of Jesus. **Recognizing those who** are laboring and value them, is vital for the unity of believers. **Reveal your delight** over those who are the weapons of God through prayer.

B. **Sold-out Christians must learn** the movement of the <u>Holy Spirit</u> and <u>Prophecy</u>, and <u>they</u> <u>test everything</u>.

The Holy Spirit transforms. The story of Arianna Amour from transgender to transformation. <u>https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2022/february/not-religion-but-jesus-how-a-former-trans-man-is-using-her-tiktok-to-reach-millions-with-gods-redemptive-love</u>

C. They lift up good and abstain from all evil.

*The continuing message of sanctification.

*1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

- 26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.
- 27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.
- 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
- V:23-24 Living the surrendered life is the sanctified life. This is evident in the choices of life. Our actions, words, and attitudes are full of Jesus' faithfulness, truth, and love. TNT is the combination of Truth and Touch. To touch a life without giving truth in light of eternity is <u>a cruel</u> <u>touch</u>. To give truth to a life without giving a personal touch is a harsh truth. When both are given it is dynamite or TNT
- 2. V:25-26 Proper affection and Prayer. A winning combination.
- 3. V:27-28 This letter to <u>the Church is a must-read</u> and understood by all Christians.