

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THEREFORE LET US NOT SLEEP, AS DO OTHERS; BUT LET US WATCH AND BE SOBER.

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 28, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 THESSALONIANS 5:6-10**

1 Thessalonians 5:6, Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. This is the first Epistle Paul wrote. It was written in A.D. 52 or A.D. 53.
- b. Thessalonica was a Roman colony located about 50 miles west of Philippi and about 100 miles north of Athens and was in the center of the heart of the Roman empire, and the chief city of Macedonia.
- c. This church in Thessalonica was established on Paul's second missionary journey.
- d. Paul took Silas with him and along the route he picked up Timothy and Dr. Luke. It was considered a model church, and that is recorded in **1 Thessalonians 1:7**, So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.
- e. This church was a testimony to the whole area that we call Greece today.
- f. Paul also speaks of this church being an example to the Corinthians. **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**, Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2: How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3: For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4: Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5: And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.
- g. Paul and Barnabas separated prior to the second missionary journey. Therefore, he picked up Timothy and Dr. Luke.
- h. Paul crossed into Macedonia from Troas where he waited on the Lord to tell him what the next destination should be. **Acts 16:8**, And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.
- i. As he arrived, the first convert was a lady named Lydia; a seller of purple. This church was established at Philippi.
- j. Paul went to Thessalonica and was there in **Acts 17** for three Sabbaths. This is a little less than a month in order to do a work for God. **Acts 17:2**, And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,
- k. Many were led to Christ; Paul organized the church and taught them the great doctrines of the Christian faith.

- l. Paul leaves because of opposition to the Gospel. He was literally run out of town; they pursued him to Berea and again he was forced to leave. **Acts 17:10**, *And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.*
- m. Paul left Silas and Timothy in Berea, but he went on to Athens and after some time there he went to Corinth.
- n. Apparently in Corinth, Timothy and Silas brought him word concerning the Thessalonians. **1 Thessalonians 3:6**, *But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:*
- o. Timothy had some question that Paul had to address. In the first Epistle he attempts to answer their questions.
- p. He had been there less than a month and touched on many of the doctrines of faith to include the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- q. Paul did not consider any subject to be above their head. He wanted to get the believers grounded in the faith.
- r. They learned so much. *When you are really interested in the Word of God you are willing and ready to learn.* **Hosea 4:6**, *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*
- s. There are many churches today that are vague on the rapture of the church, soft on the Preserved Word of God, reluctant to teach justification by faith and obscure on the Deity of Christ, especially His second coming, and offers confusion whether the church is going through the tribulation period or not.
- t. In less than one month these converts were able to grasp the meat of the Gospel Message. Paul taught that the return of Christ was imminent, but since some time had passed after Paul left, some of the saints had died and a new generation was on the scene. **1 Corinthians 3:1-2**, *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2: I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*
- u. This raises other issues. *We are to instruct our children and make sure they are taught from the Preserved Word of God.*
- v. This Epistle has a three-fold purpose. 1. To confirm young converts in the elementary truths of the Gospel, 2. To condition them to exist and exhibit holy living, and 3. To comfort them regarding the return of our Lord.
- w. John tells us in **1 John 3:3**, *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*
- x. Paul was able to get the message through to these converts in such a short period of time.
- y. **1 Thessalonians 2:1-20**, *tells how Paul was able to form this local church in that city. 1 Thessalonians 2:4-9*, *But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. 5: For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: 6: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might*

have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. 7: But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: 8: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. 9: For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14, For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. 14: For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

- z. There are several important themes in this book.
1. God expects every believer to be an example for unbelievers.
 2. Persecution is **never** a reason to leave God's ministry in which He has called us. **Matthew 5:10**, Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 3. Our ultimate victory is in Christ Jesus, and we must remember that **we serve and work for Him only** and we are not working for anybody else.
 4. The second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is imminent and certain.
 5. Christians should pray for their church, their pastor, and leaders.
 6. Living a sanctified life "full of the Holy Spirit" is God's will for every believer. **Ephesians 5:18**, And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message June 28, 2020

3. FOUR POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

e. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:6**, **Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.**
2. To watch means we must be alert; to be active and busy.
3. To be sober means to be aware of our surroundings and be a student of the Preserved Word of God. It does not speak or pertain to alcoholic beverages in this verse. **1 Peter 5:8**, *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*
4. We need to know the Preserved Word of God; we need to know the signs of the times as to what is happening in the world.
5. To put everything in perspective, we must know the Scriptures and in whom we have believed. **2 Timothy 1:12**, **For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.**
6. Do you know the Lord?
7. **Romans 13:11**, **And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. –**

Salvation is not a process; it is knowing Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. We must keep in mind that our salvation exists in three tenses. 1. **Justification** – is instantaneous just like I have never sinned. 2. **Sanctification** – is progressive to grow in grace in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 3. **Glorification** – when Jesus returns and call us in the rapture, we will receive our glorified bodies.

8. When we know Him our soul is saved, not our body until the second coming of Christ at the end of the rapture. **Hebrews 10:39**, *But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

9. Our activity, pending the Lord's coming, is to watch and be sober.

f. For they that sleep sleep in the night;

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:7-8**, *For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. **8:** But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

2. God tells us to be sober we need to understand that we have to put on some armour. **Ephesians 6:11**, *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **Ephesians 6:14-16**, Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; **15:** And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16:** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

3. *putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.* – This speaks of the duty of the soldier.

4. *breastplate of faith* – covers the heart, the vital parts of the body.

5. *helmet, the hope of salvation* – this is protection for the head.

6. **1 Corinthians 13:13**, *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.* – We are to love everyone unconditionally.

7. Faith looks to the future when we accept Jesus as Saviour.

Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **Hebrews 11:3**, Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

8. There is a hope of salvation and it is indeed a blessed hope. **1 John 3:2**, *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **Philippians 1:6**, Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: **Titus 2:13**,*

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

g. For God hath not appointed us to wrath,

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:9**, *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

2. This ought to shock all the people who think that the church is going through the tribulation period.
3. If this was the only verse in the Bible that spoke on this matter, it would be sufficient.
4. There are multitudes of verses that tell us God's people are preserved. This includes the Old Testament saints and the church because God preserves His own. **Psalms 37:28, For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever; but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.**
5. *to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ*, - God has not destined us to wrath.
6. The Church is gone at this time. This is a time of judgment for the Jews. **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**
7. Do you have salvation my friend? If there is breath in your body, there is still time.
8. If you believe that Jesus died and rose again, you can be saved. **1Thessalonians 4:14, For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**
9. If you believe that He died for you, you can be saved.
10. If you believe that *He is coming again, you can be saved.*
11. If you believe *He is seated at the right hand of the Father, you can be saved.*
12. *It is the sin of unbelief that will cause men and women to burn in hell. We must keep uppermost in our mind that we do not go to Heaven by being good and we do not go to hell because we are bad. Everything that is required to go to Heaven has already been done by the Son. Bottom line our ticket to heaven is based on what we do with Jesus and his promises.*

h. Who died for us,

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:10, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.**
2. I am often asked about the unpardonable sin. For some reason it is spread throughout the universe that if one commits suicide they are lost forever.
3. This is not in the Bible. There is no Scripture to support that theory.
4. If suicide causes one to lose their salvation, the whole question of eternal security – salvation by grace through faith – is in question.
5. **You lose rewards not salvation.**
6. I am not saying that everyone who commits suicide has salvation; I do not know the state of the heart.
7. I can tell you that if one ever comes to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, they are saved forever. **1 John 5:13, These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.**
8. There is not one thing that can separate us from the love of God. **Romans 8:38-39, For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39: Nor**

height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

9. I can comfort you with the fact that Christ died for us and whether we are wake (living) or sleep (dead) we should live together with Him forever.
10. He is coming again my friend.
11. We praise God for the simplicity of the Gospel Message.
Would you come to know Him as your Saviour?

4. CONCLUSION

- a. If you have never come to the side of the Crucified Christ this needs to be your day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6:2**, *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*
- b. When your day of salvation has arrived, the Holy Spirit will trouble your heart; He will draw you and you must yield to the power of God's Spirit. **John 6:44**, *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. John 16:8*, *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*
- c. Those who are not troubled by the sin of unbelief will never get saved.
- d. If you cannot recognize that you are lost, you cannot get saved.
- e. Man is totally depraved without Jesus Christ. There is not one ounce of divinity in us.
- f. It is only through the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that we can have eternal life.
- g. Come to the table of salvation today.
- h. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- i. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- j. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- k. **2 Peter 1:4**, *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. John 10:27-29*, *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29: My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 2 Timothy 1:12*, *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Romans 8:38-39*, *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 John 5:13*, *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*
- k. Please stand.

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