

Week beginning 13th November 2023
Sermon: Sunday 19th November 2023

Study 5: The Day of the Lord.

Readings: 1Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11

Does Jesus' promise to return affect how you live your life? If so, in what ways?

Read 1Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11:

1. What do you find about Paul's teaching here that is frightening? That is comforting?
2. In 1Thessalonians 4:13 why does Paul turn his attention to bereavement? How do you understand Paul's use of 'sleep' as a metaphor for death?

11. In v8 we read Paul again referring to faith, love and hope (In 1Thessalonians 1 Paul saw these in the Thessalonians). How are these now related to the return of Jesus? Paul writes about them as a breastplate and helmet, how can they protect us?

12. What is God's plan for us?

13. In what practical ways can our church do more to demonstrate mutual love and encouragement? What is the basis on which all real Christian encouragement is offered?

3. In what ways is Christian grief different from a non-believer?
4. When has grief affected your life? What role did faith play in your grieving process?
5. What do v14 and 15 tell us about the content of Christian hope? On what foundation is it based?
6. What sequence of events does Paul say will occur when Christ returns (v16 and 17)?
7. How would Paul's words have encouraged the Thessalonians? How can they help you to face your own fears about death?
8. Why are the example of the thief and a woman in labor good analogies for what will happen when Christ returns?
9. How is it possible for some people to 'belong to the day' while others at the same time 'belong to the night'?
10. What different responses are there to the day of the Lord?