"BE AWAKE AND READY TO GO!"

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

2-25-2026

Before the wrath of God falls on an unexpecting world, <u>you must be awake and ready to go!</u>

Remember three facts about God's salvation that will help us to be awake and ready:

I. GOD'S SALVATION <u>HAS</u> DELIVERED US FROM THE <u>STATE</u> OF DARKNESS (V. 4-5) *(Our <u>character</u> - what we <u>are</u>, in contrast to those spiritually asleep)*

II. GOD'S SALVATION <u>SHOULD</u> DELIVER US FROM THE <u>LIFESTYLE</u> OF DARKNESS (V. 6-8) *(Our <u>conduct</u> - what we <u>should be</u>, in contrast to those spiritually asleep)*

A. A Believer Should Be Spiritually <u>Awake</u> (watching, not sleeping - v. 6-7)

B. A Believer Should Be Spiritually <u>Alert</u> (sober, not drunk - v. 6-7)

C. A Believer Should Be Dressed In Spiritually <u>Attire</u> (faith, love, and hope in God - v. 8)

III. GOD'S SALVATION <u>WILL</u> DELIVER US FROM THE <u>JUDGMENT</u> OF DARKNESS (V. 9-10) *(Our <u>confidence</u> - what we <u>will be</u>, in contrast to those spiritually asleep)*

A. We Are Certain Of Deliverance Because Of <u>God's Plan</u> (v. 9)

B. We Are Certain Of Deliverance Because Of <u>Christ's Death</u> (v. 10)

CONCLUSION: V. 11

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A. A Believer Should Be Spiritually _____(watching, not sleeping - v. 6-7)

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INTRODUCTION:

Having described how the wrath of God would fall upon unbelievers at a time when the would not expect it (v. 1-3a), nor escape it (v. 3b), Paul now encourages believers (v. 4-11).

His words positively exhort us to be awake and ready to go!

*** Before the wrath of God falls on an unexpecting world, you must be awake and ready to go!**

Remember three facts about God's salvation that will help us to be awake and ready:

I. GOD'S SALVATION HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE STATE OF DARKNESS (V. 4-5) (Our character - what we are, in contrast to those spiritually asleep)

V. 4

"But ye, brethren" = shows sharp contrast

"Darkness" = a figure of speech to describe the lostness or the moral blindness of an unbeliever who is stumbling in sin (cp. I Jn. 2:8-11).

"[Unsaved] men love darkness rather than light..." (Jn. 3:19)

The word darkness is used to describe people who are deliberately blind to the truth (Christ). But praise God, believers are not blind to spiritual realities. We have been enlightened (Heb. 6:4; 10:32).

Col. 1:13 - "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

"Overtake" = lit. to take hold of you, to come upon quickly and seize you.

"That day" = the day of the Lord (v. 2).

Believers will <u>not</u> be caught by surprise.
Believers will <u>not</u> be caught in the dark.

Those in darkness will be saying "Peace and safety" (v. 3), not fearing the impending wrath of God.

But we know it is coming (are we living like it?)

"Thief" = the wrath of Christ which falls immediately after he comes back for His saints will catch the world by surprise.

(SEE Luke 12:39; 21:34; II Pet. 3:10; Rev. 3:3, 16:15).

V. 5

NOTE:	Chiasm -	Light	Night
		Day	Darkness

Light is contrasted with darkness
Day is contrasted with night

"Sons of light" = children characterized by light. A one-word description for a Christian should be "light." We are the "light of the world" (Mt. 6)

To be a son of God is to be a son of light, for God is light (I Jn. 1:5), Christ is light (Jn. 1:4-9).

I John 1:6-7 - A believer does not walk in darkness!

Someone who claims to have fellowship with Christ, yet walks in darkness, is a liar.

II. GOD'S SALVATION SHOULD DELIVER US FROM THE LIFESTYLE OF DARKNESS (V. 6-8)

(Our conduct - what we should be, in contrast to those spiritually asleep)

V. 6

"Therefore" - because of what we are (v. 4-5), we should act in a way that matches what we are!

God is showing us that because we are different (v. 4-5) by virtue of our salvation, we must live differently (v. 6-8).

Three characteristics of someone who is not ready to go someplace:

He is not:
1) awake (sleeping)
2) alert (drunk)
3) dressed (naked)

A. A Believer Should Be Spiritually Awake (watching, not sleeping - v. 6-7)

V. 6

We are not to be spiritually sleeping.

"As do others" = the rest of the lost world.

Rather, we are to "watch" = to stay awake, be vigilant.

The wrath of God (cp. v. 9) will not come upon God's people like it will come upon the world (which will be sound asleep)

EX: Mt. 25:5 - sleeping before Christ's coming.

B. A Believer Should Be Spiritually Alert (sober, not drunk - v. 6-7)

"Sober" = morally alert

SEE I Pet. 1:13-16

"Be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (v. 13)

V. 7

Why do men drink at night? Answer: Jn. 3:20 - "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."

Drinking alcoholic beverages is totally out of the character of a true believer!

Anything that dulls our spiritual senses is wrong!

Anything that dulls our moral alertness is wrong!

SEE Lk. 21:34 = drunkenness and the Day of the Lord

Just as drinking and driving don't mix, drinking and flying (up - in the Rapture) don't mix. (No one goes to be with Christ who is a drunkard! cp. I Cor. 6:10)

Unbelievers are asleep because they are living in the night (darkness); unbelievers are drunk because they are living in the night (darkness).

We are not of the night, so we must not live as if we were! Be alert!

C. A Believer Should Be Dressed In Spiritually Attire (faith, love, and hope in God - v. 8)

V. 8

Some who call themselves "believers" are not dressed for Heaven; they are wearing the rags of hell!

However, we who are of the day (genuine believers) must be dressed like it.

The virtuous trio of faith, hope, and love, is also seen in 1:3; I Cor. 13:13; Gal. 5:5-6; Rom. 5:2-5; Col. 1:4-5; Heb. 6:10-12.

In this verse (v. 8), our faith, love, and hope are all aimed toward God.

Although faith, love and hope come from God, we are responsible to put them on ourselves (v. middle voice), and we are to dress ourselves in them continually (present tense)

The department store for acquiring faith, love, and hope is Heaven! But we must put them on ourselves at home!

Having faith in God, and love for God around your chest will prevent your heart from going to sleep and getting hard and cold.

Having hope around your head will prevent your mind from being troubled.

Cp. Eph. 6:17 - "The Helmet of salvation" = the assurance of deliverance from judgment.

III. GOD'S SALVATION WILL DELIVER US FROM THE JUDGMENT OF DARKNESS (V. 9-10) (Our confidence - what we will be, in contrast to those spiritually asleep)

A. We Are Certain Of Deliverance Because Of God's Plan (v. 9)

V. 9

"Appointed" = to place into; or destine

God has our flight pre=arranged; our departure is booked; our tickets have been purchased in advance!

And our flight leaves right on time! (before God's wrath is poured out)

SEE I Thess. 1:10 where our deliverance from God's wrath is so sure, God puts its fulfillment in the past tense.

Salvation from sin is only by our Lord Jesus Christ, and salvation (deliverance) from the wrath of God is only by our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is in no other (Acts 4:12)!

B. We Are Certain Of Deliverance Because Of Christ's Death (v. 10)

Christ died on our behalf for the purpose that we might live with him. His death means our life!

And this living with Christ is for you whether you are living when Christ returns, or whether you have died. (sleep)

question - by using the terms "wake or sleep" - Is Paul still speaking about spiritually sleeping and being awake, or literal?

Answer: He switches back to literal.

"Wake or sleep" = A play on words meaning alive or dead.

In context, those spiritually asleep will not be delivered, they will not escape (v. 3)

The word **"sleep"** is used again to conclude Paul's thought as he began it in verses 14-16. It was literal in v. 14-16, and now Paul goes back to use the term "sleep" as a euphemism for "death" int he same way he began the context.

Rom. 14:9 = "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living."

CONCLUSION: V. 11

--Don't be caught in the dark!

--Don't slip into the fires of the Tribulation and Hell asleep!

--Don't think you can assume you are ready to be raptured (genuinely saved) when your life shows just the opposite.

* Those asleep to spiritual truth (i.e. to Christ) are not saved

* Those intoxicated by anything that deadens moral alertness are only fooling themselves.

I Jn. 2:28-29 - And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him."

Live expectantly (be awake, alert, and dressed ready to go!)

Have your suitcase packed! (not with the things of the world, because they will not pass luggage inspection! But be packing things that are eternal!)