

Encourage One Another and

Build Up One Another

In Reference To Living For Meeting the Lord In The Air.

1 Thessalonians 5:3

¹ **Now** (moving on to a new subject) **as to the times** (dispensations) **and the epocs**, (dramatic, historical event) **brethren**, (believers) **you have no need of anything to be written to you.**

² **For** (and the reason you have no need of me writing to you is that) **you yourselves know full well** (accurately and completely) **that the day of the Lord** (extends from the Tribulation, Second Advent, and Millennium and Great White Throne Judgment) **will come just like a thief in the night.**

Suddenly... and verse 3 gives the political-religious platform of The Tribulation.

³ **While they are saying, "Peace and Safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.**

While they are saying (This conveys a continuous proclamation throughout the world.)

Who are these people speaking?

The unbelievers, especially the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire, or the antichrist in trying to calm everyone down after The Rapture of all believers and this is his platform to gain world-wide control. This also begins a strong historical contrast between believers and unbelievers.

Peace (*refers to world peace, the absence of war!*

But he is trying to offer a peace without the cross.)

And if you think mainstream media is bad now, just wait, they will be worshipping this man and exulting the peace he offers. He will be proclaiming a World Peace, free of international wars, this assumes of course everyone submits to his rule.

We already know he will offer this **Peace and Safety** to Israel and that Israel will believe him to the point they will lay down their own defenses. We also know from Daniel and from Revelation that in these 7 years there is nothing but *wars and rumors of wars and that nations will rise against nations.* Matthew 24:6-7.

Safety (This is a promise that nothing, not even God, can disrupt

this peace. Of course, this is what he will promise everyone who joins him. Safety from him and his forces.

This has been man's cry and goal since the early days of Nimrod in building the Tower of Babel in Babylon. Nimrod desired to build the first city, to protect against God. Man ever since has tried to find ***Peace and Safety*** without God, never finding it.

Real, lasting **Peace and Safety** are found only in JESUS CHRIST and people this is true on a national scale and on a personal scale...inner **Peace and Safety** within.

Then (Beginning of *THE DAY OF THE LORD*, especially when JESUS CHRIST returns) **destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape**

THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION UPON THEM.

The word translated ***destruction*** does not mean termination of existence but **disaster**, destruction as you now exist. "the loss of everything that makes existence worthwhile—separation from God and Christ forever."

Like labor pains upon a woman with child—both events will be where the pains increase in frequency and severity – this is what the 7 years of Tribulation will be like.

But the fearful statement is...

**will not escape destruction will come upon them...
they will not escape.**

Who is being referred to here? Those who are crying *Peace and Safety*; all unbelievers in The Tribulation.

Remember these words, **they will not escape...**

Mark them down in your understanding as we live in a world that is so arrogantly proud they boast of how they are getting away with so many things that God declared not to do.

Getting away with immorality, perversions in morality and perversions in judicial proclamations.

Oh, yes, they are getting away with it!

No, they are not, they are simply refusing to change in a period of grace from God. But that Day is coming, it is marked in history. And they will not escape it! So don't think they are getting away with anything.

Many today are like Habakkuk who cried out...

how long oh Lord...why do you make me see iniquity

(Habakkuk 1:2-3)

To which God gave that wonderful reply to Habakkuk and to each of us today: Habakkuk 2:3-4

3 **“For the vision is yet for the appointed time; (*THE DAY OF THE LORD*) It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. **Though it tarries, wait for it;** (it has been over 2600 years since Habakkuk) **For it will certainly come, it will not delay.** (This you can count on)**

4 **“Behold, as for the proud/arrogant one, His soul is not right within him; But** (and here is the challenge for every one of us today in AD 2015) **the righteous will live by his faith.**

We will trust Him and not get dismayed by all that is going on, we will continue to grow in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST, live a righteous life (a life lived in the FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT) and proclaim the love of Christ.

This Day, *THE DAY OF THE LORD*, will come suddenly and it will bring destruction, not termination... but wishing that you were terminated.

The prolific writer H.G. Wells was one of the first secular writers to understand this. In San Antonio, Texas, in an interview with Orson Welles basically stated that the evil, the destruction that lies ahead (he was not a religious prophet) must not be avoided but declared, in his writings and in the movies.

And the first part of *THE DAY OF THE LORD* will be disastrous punishment for the unbelieving world and deliverance of the saved and then the bringing in of the King's Millennial Kingdom.

In verse 4 Paul changes from speaking of unbelievers in The Tribulation to believers in the Church Age... throughout the Church Age, you and I, right now in AD 2015 waiting on Meeting The Lord in the Air.

1 Thessalonians 5:4

4 **But** (introduces a contrast between unbelievers in Tribulation and believers in the Church Age) **But you, brethren,** (believers in sharp contrast to those spoken of in verse 3) **are not in darkness,**

What is meant by being **in** darkness?

- 1 In verse 4 the thief comes in the darkness of the night.
- 2 But we must see this darkness as it relates to creation in Genesis 12 hours of light, 12 hours of darkness—these 12 hours belong to Satan, symbolizing with Satan rules. When unbelievers are in his kingdom of darkness.
- 3 But in describing mankind as being in darkness, it describes unbelievers who are in the dark about the Light of the world – JESUS CHRIST

Acts 26:18

¹⁸ to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by Faith in Me.'

- 3 It also describes the world of unbelievers who live in moral darkness.
- 4 And from our study in Hebrews 12, the sin of unbelief is living in Darkness as to the PLAN OF GOD.
- 5 Darkness is an all-encompassing word describing the state of all unbelievers.
- 6 In context here in 1 Thessalonians 5, this darkness refers to The Tribulation and these believers will not be in this darkness of The Tribulation due to The Rapture **that the day** *THE DAY OF THE LORD*, mentioned in verse 2 **would overtake you** the Greek word conveys surprise and horror **like a thief**; they will not be *overtaken* by The Tribulation because they will be removed, snatched up.

1 Thessalonians 5:4

⁴ **But you brethren,** (believers) **are not in darkness** (spiritually, they have responded to the gospel, they are in the Light of the World) **that the day** (*THE DAY OF THE LORD*) **should overtake you** (by surprise) **like a thief.**

The destruction mentioned in verse 3 will not over take these believers for they are in the light.

⁵ **for** (introducing why believers will not be in darkness and why they will not be overtaken)—**for** or **because**— **you** (believers of the Church Age) **you are** (Present Active

Indicative of absolute status... you are and you keep on being)

all (no partial rapture,) [all or every believer of the Church Age].

The position of the all-inclusive...

all not only dispels any partial rapture, but it is also encouragement to every believer in Church Age.

- 5 **for you are all sons of light and sons of day.** (That is, you are positioned in the Son of God, the Light of the World and this Light while characterizing your existence; it should characterize your life)
We are not of night nor of darkness;

First note the strong contrast:

you are sons of light and sons of day

You are not of night nor of darkness (here again is the necessity of every believer knowing who you are in Christ.)

Next note Paul includes himself—

we are not of night...(Paul includes himself, as he now moves into a discussion on how believers ought to live while anxiously waiting The Rapture. This life style includes *all believers.*)

QUESTION:
WHY WILL THE TRIBULATION
BE A PERIOD OF *DARKNESS*?

Because the Church is removed, the Light of the World is removed, Sons of the Day—JESUS CHRIST and all who are in Him are removed by The Rapture and that is why it will be a period of darkness.

We will see in 2 Thessalonians how the Restrainer will be removed... that is the HOLY SPIRIT and with Him gone and all Christians it will be a horrible period of darkness.

I believe this entire reference to Day in contrast to darkness and how we live in the light is a reference to John 9:

when Jesus was healing a blind man:

John 9:4-5

4 **“We must work the works of Him (GOD THE FATHER) who sent Me (JESUS CHRIST) as long as it is day; (as long as He is here) night is coming (crucifixion) when no one can work.**

5 **“While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”**

And JESUS CHRIST is in the world, dwelling in every believer because of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Once the HOLY SPIRIT is removed, so is the presence of JESUS CHRIST and therefore darkness.

Verse 6

adds to how we are to live in eager anticipation
of The Rapture,
looking for The Rapture.

- 1 Wait with eager anticipation of seeing the Lord at The Rapture .
1:10
- 2 Witness of Jesus as the Christ, Savior
- 3 Love One Another 3:11-13
- 4 Sanctified for The Rapture 4:1-12
- 5 Comfort from The Rapture —*comfort One Another with these words* 4:18
- 6 not sleep, be alert, be sober 5:6

1 Thessalonians 5:6

The exhortations in verse 6-7 are based on the description of believers: not of night or darkness but

sons of light, sons of day (Therefore, based on who you are)

6 **so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.**

Not sleep (Is in the present tense, this is the way we should live every day in anticipation of meeting the Lord in the air.)

So in living in anticipation of The Rapture we are not to be asleep here is a good place to see how ‘idioms’ are used differently in WORD OF GOD, indeed in one book.

We have already seen in 4:13 how ‘asleep’ was used in reference to the bodies of those who die physically before The Rapture. But now ‘sleep’ is used in another way.

Here **let us not sleep** does not mean, do not go to sleep at night, physically. Sleep is used here as a metaphor to refer to believers who do not go to where the Bible is being taught, believers who are not aware of what is going on around them in their society or in the world, who do not have spiritual discernment. They have their heads buried in the sand or in this case in pillows. They are busy with the temporary details of life. Going and coming!

“I am so busy” ... You can be very *busy*, but from God’s viewpoint—you are sleeping and as far as the WORD OF GOD is concerned, as far as what is going on in the world is concerned they are ‘asleep’.

This is a real danger to believers—walking around in their sleep, busy sleepwalking.

let us not sleep (Note that Paul includes himself, no one is immune to sleep walking, so impressed with how busy they are in their sleep.)

as others do

Who are the others? This is a reference to other believers who do not study the WORD OF GOD. Those so caught up in the temporal and not the eternal.

Now we come to the positive way we ought to live waiting to Meet the Lord in the Air.

but (in contrast with the negative statement just given here is the positive)

but let us be alert–watchful (this is talking about something more than when you are driving an automobile, though many are not alert even then!)

No, this is talking about being alert in a far more important part of our lives---spiritually. Being alert in your prayer life, being alert in your marital relationship, being alert with how you handle your money, your time, priorities in your life.

We saw this word in Matthew 24 and 25 with JESUS CHRIST warning believing Jews to be *alert*. The word means to refrain from sleeping, to stand guard. It denotes attention to all that is going in your life, in your soul, in your marriage, in your study of the WORD OF GOD.

In 1 Corinthians 16, it means to stand guard in regard to your faith. In 1 Peter 5:8, we are to be constantly alert because your adversary, the devil, prowls about looking for a believer to devour. That is to get a believer to stop walking by faith. We are told to be alert in our prayer life. It means to be alert to the application of doctrine to the circumstances of life.

And sober and no this does not mean never to drink, any more than being alert means never physically sleeping.

Being sober refers to stability of mind. It is amazing how a legalist will actually not be sober while he makes a big issue out of being physically sober. Religious legalists are anything but sober of mind as HOLY SPIRIT means it here.

In fact, this is the point of this comparison. As alcohol affects the mind, so religious legalism, living in the flesh severely affects the spiritual ability to be alert in your Christian life.

Verse 7 is an application of verse 6.

1 Thessalonians 5:7-8

⁷ **For** (introduces an explanation of verse 6) **for** (or) **because those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.**

As sleep is characteristic of night, so believers not in spiritual awareness are viewed as sleeping or drunk.

MANY CHRISTIANS WOULD NEVER DRINK,
CERTAINLY NOT GET DRUNK
BUT WHO ARE IN THE EYES OF GOD
ASLEEP AND DRUNK IN THEIR LEGALISM,
IN THEIR DO AND DO,
AND NOT SPIRITUALLY AWARE
OF ALL THAT IS GOING ON AROUND THEM.

Again, night anticipates The Tribulation in contrast to the Church Age or living in the day... living in HOLY SPIRIT and witnessing for JESUS CHRIST.

Verse 8 introduces our weapons in the Spiritual Conflict we live in.

⁸ **But** (introduces contrast between unbelievers and believers who are alert)

since we are of *the day*, (Time of JESUS CHRIST;) [This refers to believers throughout the Church Age;] **We live by the light of JESUS CHRIST, the light of the WORD OF GOD.**

Since we are of the day, let us be sober, (inner mental and spiritual stability by the HOLY SPIRIT and doctrine in the soul.)

having put on (getting dressed for warfare—spiritual warfare.)

What is interesting here is that this is an Aorist Participle and the action of the Aorist Participle precedes the action of the main verb.

—let us be sober or self-controlled

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

That there is no way you can live a life of alertness, or in self-control
WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

You have to have your armor on before you can go into battle.

Way too many believers battle in the flesh, thinking they are doing great things for God but in final analysis they are beating at the air.

the breastplate of faith and love, (The breastplate was a vital piece of armor, covering the chest—the vital organ of the heart.)

In Ephesians 6, it is the breastplate of righteousness, here of Faith and Love. Two fundamental weapons of the believer in the Angelic Conflict in the Church Age.

QUESTION:

WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF THIS BATTLE FAITH?

It is always in the source of power and direction, God the Holy Spirit.

This is why Paul in Galatians 5 has some **4 EXHORTATIONS** in regard to the believer and the HOLY SPIRIT.

WALK BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (5:16)

LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (5:18)

LIVE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (5:25)

KEEP IN STEP, IN BATTLE FORMATION WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT (5:25)

The Question Arises With Each One Of These:

How?

How do we walk by the HOLY SPIRIT?

How are we led by the HOLY SPIRIT?

How do we live by the HOLY SPIRIT?

How do we keep in step with the HOLY SPIRIT?

And Paul gives the answer in Galatians 5:5

For we through the Spirit by faith...by faith are waiting for the hope of righteousness—a righteous life.

It is by Faith in the HOLY SPIRIT
that we fulfill all our desires
to be FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

QUESTION:

TO WHOM IS THE LOVE DIRECTED?

LOVE LIKE FAITH HAS AN OBJECT.
(we will not discuss believers who are in love with self)

THE OBJECT OF FAITH IS

#1	GOD: GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT
#2	WE ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER — OTHER BELIEVERS
#3	UNBELIEVERS: SO AS TO GIVE THEM THE GOSPEL BY WHICH THEY MOVE INTO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST AND HAVE THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF BEING WITH HIM FOREVER.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

⁸ **and as a helmet,** (another vital piece of armor protecting the head) **the hope of salvation.** (confidence)

This is in anticipation of our receiving a
Resurrected Body at the Resurrection at
The Rapture of the Church.

QUESTION:

WHY ARE THESE METAPHORS PICKED BY PAUL HERE AND OTHER PLACES LIKE EPHESIANS 6?

For basically two or three reasons:

Firstly: *TO REMIND EACH ONE OF US* that we are in a constant spiritual battle... Not against flesh and blood but against angelic powers of darkness, and against the world and against our own flesh.

Secondly: *FOR PROTECTION*—the breastplate of Faith and Love protect us against powers of darkness and against our own flesh nature. Our flesh nature causes us to resist the Plan of God, resist growing in His Word. Our flesh nature seeks to satisfy self, not the Lord.

Thirdly: *FOR OFFENSIVE VICTORY:*

1 John 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. This is why we live by Faith; **the righteous live by faith** but remember:

Is your Faith the Faith God is looking for?

The merit of Faith is the object of Faith—the object of Faith for our eternal life is JESUS CHRIST; the object of our Faith for daily victory in struggles of life is the Holy Spirit; God sent His Son for our Everlasting-Life and God sent His Spirit for our spiritual lives. We trust God and His Word. So the object of Faith that is acceptable to God is *HIS SON, HIS SPIRIT, HIS WORD.*

After The Rapture we will live with JESUS CHRIST forever.

Verses 4-5	<i>DESCRIBED WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST.</i>
Verses 6-7	<i>HOW WE ARE TO LIVE BECAUSE WE ARE IN CHRIST.</i>
Verse 8	<i>OUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR.</i>

Now in verses 9-10 in 1 Thessalonians 5:
God's design for our Conduct

9 **For** (Introduces the reason we should remain alert and sober: God's plan for you is now stated negatively and positively)
because God (GOD THE FATHER) **has not destined us for wrath,** (wrath in context is the wrath of The Tribulation; that wrath that awaits the unbeliever and is not for the believer.)

In contrast to what waits for the unbeliever in The Tribulation, we now have what God has planned for every believer of the Church Age.

but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, GOD THE FATHER is the author of the Divine Plan and He delivers every believer of the Church Age out of The Tribulation. In Hebrews 12:1 it is GOD THE FATHER who **set the race before us** while we are alive in the Church Age.

Please be sure you understand

John 3:16

*In this manner, indeed
God loved the world*

That

*He gave His only begotten Son,
That – in order that; for the purpose that*

Whoever believes in Him

Shall not perish

But

Have everlasting life

Our future is connected with The Rapture verse 10.

10

who died for us, so that

(here is what God has destined us for)

whether we are awake or asleep,

This goes back to Paul's discussion in 4:13-14 referring to sleep as physical death of believers throughout the Church Age;

The conjunction translated...

whether (introduces The Rapture) ***when the rapture occurs whether we have physically died or are alive,***

we will live together with Him.

This of, course, is a reference to 4:17.

Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

¹¹ **Therefore** (based on all the foregoing, here is how we are to live with One Another) **encourage one another and build up one another,** (not judging, biting, competing, ignoring One Another) **just as you also are doing.**

Chapter 4 ended with how we are to comfort One another with a correct understanding of The Rapture. Now, once again we are to encourage One Another.

Therefore (based on these Truths: (*1) that you will not go into The Tribulation and (*2) that you will be with JESUS CHRIST forever after The Rapture.

Encourage One Another (we saw this same Greek word in 3:2, where it was associated with Faith)

encourage you as to your faith We can and should encourage One Another to continue to walk by Faith in the HOLY SPIRIT and to keep growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and in being a witness of JESUS CHRIST in the world, and loving One Another in eager anticipation of The Rapture.

But we also so this same word in 4:18

to comfort One Another This is a rich word used of the HOLY SPIRIT *parakaleo* referring to many ministries of the HOLY SPIRIT. Here the believer who is FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT will encourage and comfort One Another.

Spiritual Love *OBSERVES—
SEES WHAT IS NEEDED.*

Sometimes you will observe that because of what a believer is going through, he/she needs to be encouraged, as to continuing to live by Faith or encouraged to continue to come to bible study, encouraged to continue trusting God, regardless of their circumstances in life.

But sometimes because of all that is going on in their lives they need to be comforted. They are dismayed, discouraged about things, and they just need to be comforted; like comforted that their believing loved one who has just died is Face to Face with the Lord.

Be comforted with the truth that God is in control.

But sometimes they need to be exhorted to march on, continue on in the PLAN OF GOD.

Therefore encourage One Another and build up One Another

The Greek word means to build up .or. to edify One Another. You build up another believer by giving them Biblical Truth that they do not know –build up their life of Faith, their walking in Faith, build up their Knowledge of the WORD OF GOD; build up their courage.

Just as you also are doing What a wonderful thing to be said of any congregation.

What makes a Christ-glorifying Congregation ?

- 1 In verse 1:3 Your work of Faith and labor of Love and steadfastness of Hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,
- 2 verse 1:6 You also became imitators... of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,
- 3 verse 1:7 You became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
- 4 verse 1:8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your Faith toward God has gone forth,
- 5 verse 1:10 And *you* wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
- 6 verse 2:12 So that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God.
- 7 verse 2:13 You received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.
- 8 verse 2:14 Endured suffering, that is, you did not allow suffering related to being a witness of JESUS CHRIST to deter you from continue to grow in the Knowledge of the Word of God and living in expectation of the Rapture.
- 9 verse 2:20 Being the hope and joy of others.
- 10 verse 3:6 Faith manifesting itself in love toward One Another.
- 11 verse 3:12 Continual growth in faith expressing itself in love.
- 12 Walking in a manner that is pleasing to God— verse 4:1 and what pleases God?... ...when we walk by faith.
- 13 Abstaining from sexual immorality, verse 4:3-5 which always

	stains our temporal sanctification.
14	verse 4:6 Living at peace and honesty with One Another.
15	verse 4:9 Living in fulfillment of the New commandment given to us by JESUS CHRIST in John 14 ...that you love One Another as I have loved you
16	verse 4:11 Making it your ambition to live a quiet life.
17	verse 4:18 You comfort One Another with words of The Rapture.
18	verse 5:6-8 Being alert and sober minded each day in the Filling of the Holy Spirit by Faith.
19	verse 5:11 You encourage One Another and build up One Another spiritually and doctrinally.