WATCH AND BE SOBER
1 Thess 5: 4-11

1. Message of Examination.
   **1 Th 5:4-5** Day of dividing--children of light separated from children of darkness.
   Overtake: Seize, take possession of; take eagerly.
   Christians associated with light…unbelievers are associated with darkness. Darkness blinded unbeliever’s whole being. 2 Cor 4:4

Because of darkness, unbeliever:
- Not watchful of Day of the Lord—caught unexpectedly
- Doesn’t have faith
- Lacks hope
- Lacks ability to love with God’s love

Darkness always associated with behavior that doesn’t please God.
   Psa 74:20; 82:5

Light associated with that which pleases God: Job 29:2-3; Isa 2:5

Peoples’ hearts darkened. Rom 1:21

Christians are to stay away from works of darkness: Rom 13:12-13; Eph 5:11-13

God eventually manifest hidden works of darkness. 1 Cor 4:5, 12-13

**1 Th 5:4 -5 Children of the day:** believers are not in darkness that Great & Terrible Day of the Lord should overtake (seize, possess) as a thief.

**1 Cor. 2:14** True of unbeliever:
1. Not receptive to things of Spirit of God
2. Thinks spiritual things & activities foolish.
3. Cannot have personal knowledge of spiritual
4. No spiritual discernment.

When a person calls upon name of Lord for salvation, Holy Spirit rips off spiritual blindfold, turns on spiritual light, and comes to indwell

2. Message of Spiritual Challenge
   **1 Th 5:6-7**

Watch: be alert, vigilant, awake; opposite of indifference (sleep-v. 6).

Live in light of Christ’s return.
   G. Campbell Morgan, *I never begin my work in the morning without thinking that perhaps He may interrupt my work and begin His own. I am not looking for death. I am looking for Him.*”

In the military the sentinel on duty watches for the enemy

Sober. discreet. Watch—mental; Sober--moral. Be stable in lifestyle.
Hendrichson: To be sober means to be filled with spiritual and moral earnestness, being neither overly excited on the one hand, nor indifferent on the other, but calm, steady, and sane (1 Pet. 4:7), doing one’s duty and fulfilling one’s ministry.”

Has depth. Not controlled by carnal nature
1 Tim 3:2, 11; Tit 1:8; 2:4, 6; 1 Pet 4:7

Two kinds of men:
- Watchful alert, vigilant, sober
- Asleep and drunk

1 Th 5:6-7 Sleep: moral indifference
- Attitude of not being aware of what is going on.
- Unconsciousness of coming events
- Insensitiveness to importance of staying consistent in spiritual walk.
- Live as if never be a day of judgment.
- Spiritually and morally lax.
- Moral indifference and carelessness about spiritual things.
  Luke 12:45; Mat 25:1-8
1 Th 5:8 Soldier on duty.

Be Sober: Present tense. Continual and consistent attitude of moral consistency & stability.


Breastplate: Protects breast or part of body which holds lungs and heart. Affects spiritual breathing and inner life—affections.

Two Types of Breastplate:
- Of faith—view of God & total reliance upon God
- Of love—view of God and others

This referring to our view of God and others.

8... and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
Paul used this triad of faith, hope and love back in 1 Th 1:3

Hope: Confident expectancy…protects mind..outlook on life.
Salvation: future aspect of salvation...eternal security. Eph 2:12

Unto: the sum total of every spiritual endowment and blessing granted me on basis of redemptive work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hope: Looks to future. … future aspect of salvation.

3. Message of Encouragement
1 Th 5:9-11 born-again believer not appointed to wrath. Not have to go through Tribulation