

# Home Group Helps

## 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

### *Living in the Light of His Return: Sons of Darkness – Sons of Light*

**I. The Contrast of Their Natures (v.4-5)** – <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; <sup>5</sup> for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

**II. The Conduct of Their Lives (v.6-8)** – <sup>6</sup> so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

**III. The Condition of Their Destinies (v.9-11)** – <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

#### 1. Launching Question(s):

- What are some differences that you have observed in between the nature and conduct of Christians and non-Christians?

#### 2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul is, again, trying to reassure the Thessalonian believers that they can be assured of their salvation and, therefore, need not fear the coming Day of the Lord.
- Why is the assurance of salvation such an important doctrine to the Christian?

#### 3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul uses a metaphor to describe Christians as “sons of light and sons of day” (v.5).
- Why is that an appropriate metaphor?
- He goes on to say that Christians, “are not of night nor of darkness.” What does he mean by that metaphor?
- Paul states in vs. 8 that we should always, “put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.”
- How is this illustration helpful to you?
- Why are those three Christian virtues so important in the life of the believer? In the Church in general?

#### 4. Reflection Question(s):

- In verses 9-10, Paul reminds us that we have salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, “who died for us.”
- Some consider that term, “for us” (Greek: *hyper*, “on our behalf”; “with reference to us”; “in our place”; “as our substitute”) as one of the most important words in the Bible.
- How might that be the case?

#### 5. Application Question(s):

- What is one way that you can demonstrate being a “son of the light” this coming week?