



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Getting Ready for the Second Coming”

LESSON #5 = The Calling of the Church

by Ray Reynolds on January 31, 2016

Text: I Thessalonians 5



Introduction: God does not make mistakes. He has called the saints for service. We have discussed the importance of packing our spiritual bags, and preparing for eternity, over the last four weeks. We are studying through the first letter to the Thessalonians. We have focused on our condition, our conduct, our concerns, and the words we need for comfort. In this final chapter Paul addresses the eternal calling of God. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Walk in the Night Light (vs.1-8)

¹But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ²For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

II. Walk in the New Mindset (vs.9-11)

⁹For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

III. Walk in the Noble Way (vs.12-22)

¹²And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies. ²¹Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

IV. Walk in the Notable Calling (vs.23-38)

²³Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. ²⁵Brethren, pray for us. ²⁶Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. ²⁷I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren. ²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Conclusion: Have you started your journey? Are you preparing yourself for the Lord to call you home? It is important to remember that no one else can pack your spiritual bags for you. You have to do that yourself. If you are hearing/reading these words... you still have time. However, your time is quickly running out. If you are not ready to meet Jesus, please make things right today! Believe in Jesus. Confess His name. Be baptized into His blood. And walk worthy of your calling in Christ.