

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – November 12, 2023

Theme: The Urgency of the Last days Topic: The Day of the Lord

Main Texts: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Key verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:2 *“For you yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: The urgency of the last days may appear frightening but that is not the intention of Scriptures. Our passage today tells us *‘...that the Day of the Lord will come suddenly and unexpectedly as a thief in the nightbut you, brethren are not in darkness, so that the Day should overtake you as a thief’* (1 Thessalonians 5:2,4). This same theme is echoed by Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3:10: *‘But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night ...’*. However, believers should not be taken by surprise on the day of the Lord because we know it is coming. This is so encouraging and empowering. This submission encourages believers to live boldly and be strong in the Lord without fear of the day of the Lord but rather looking forward to it with expectation and excitement (2 Peter 3:13). As believers, we are to be so familiar and knowledgeable concerning the day of the Lord that Apostle Paul wrote *‘... But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. for you yourselves know that the Day of the Lord so comes...’* (1 Thessalonians 1-2).

1. (a) Let participants share their understanding of ‘the Day of the Lord’. (b) Read John 8:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5; 1 John 1: 7. From these passages, why will the Day of the Lord not overtake believers as a thief in the night? (c) How should being “sons of light” and “walking in the light” make us so ready for the Day of the Lord that we are not taken by surprise?

The phrase ‘The day of the Lord’ appears 18 times in the Old Testament mainly depicting the day of terror, or judgement or decision amongst others. In the New Testament, it occurs in several places and mainly signifies the return of our Lord Jesus Christ and the unquestionable presence of the Almighty God (1 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10-12) While it is empowering to know that believers will not be taken by surprise, it is wise to actively prepare for that day. We are exhorted to be watchful and sober because we are sons of the day (1 Thessalonians 5:5). When we watch the news and read the daily papers, it could be easy to get carried away and “fall asleep” with all the revelries that we see going on, and the incessant calls for peace and security as nations rise against nations, and lawmakers scramble to broker lasting peace. As believers, we must learn to live differently in an unbelieving world and be alert to the times. Knowing that the day of the Lord will surely come helps us keep things in perspective. No wonder, in his letter to believers, Apostle Peter admonished them to be persons of *‘...holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God... be diligent to be found in Him in peace, without spot and blameless’* (2 Peter 3:11-14).

2. (a) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:6,8; 2 Peter 3: 12-15a. Let participants list the elements of preparation noted in the passage. Explain the function of each element (b) Apostle Paul admonishes the brethren not to sleep as others do (1 Thessalonians 5:6-7). What does this mean? What are the implications of sleeping when we should be awake? (see also Matthew 13:25; 1 Peter 5:8) (c) How does the Scripture want us to view the day of the Lord? (see 2 Peter 3:12a,14)

Jesus prayed that believers be one as He and the Father are one and that they be made perfect in one (John 17:21,23). For us to attain what the Lord wants for us, there is need to encourage one another. The writer of Hebrews puts it so aptly: *‘And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching’* (Hebrews 10: 24-25). Holding one another’s hand in the love of God, and strengthening one another keeps us strong, and hopeful towards the day of the Lord. And whether His return finds us dead or alive, we can rejoice in the knowledge that we will ALL share in the joy of finally being with Him.

3. (a) What are some practical ways that we can encourage one another as we await the Day of the Lord? (b) How does unity and encouraging one another help us in waiting for the day of the Lord? (c) Let participants share their thoughts on how they will actively look forward to the day of the Lord.

Prayer: *Our dear heavenly Father, we thank You for our study today on the Day of the Lord. We pray that each of us would fully be prepared and wait for that day in expectation and excitement, in Jesus Name, Amen.*