

"The Dreadful Day of the Lord"
(1 Thessalonians 5:1-2)

I. The Clues to the Day. (1Ths. 5:1)

- A. The Thessalonians wanted to know when Jesus would return.
- B. Jesus told His disciples, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. (Mark 13:32)
- C. Paul told the Thessalonians "You don't need to have anything written to you about that. You're not going to be there." (1Ths. 5:9)
- D. "Times and seasons" are two words in the original.
 - 1. "Chronos" means clock time, chronological time.
 - 2. "Kairos" means events.
- E. Spiritual preparedness for the coming of Christ does not involve date setting, clock watching, or sign seeking.
- F. It would be counter-productive if we knew when Jesus was coming back.
 - 1. It takes 40 Southern Baptists to baptize one new convert.
 - 2. We say we believe in the imminent Second Coming of Christ but we don't take it seriously enough to tell people about Him.
 - 3. Imagine if we thought Jesus wasn't coming for another 1000-years?
 - 4. How could we be any more indifferent than we are now?
- G. God has chosen not to reveal the time of the final events so that all believers live in a spirit of expectancy all the time.

II. The Characteristics of the Day

- A. Antichrist will be revealed. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)
- B. He will make and break a covenant with Israel and desecrate the Temple in Jerusalem. (Daniel 9:27, Matt. 24:15)
- C. There will be the return of Elijah (Malachi 4:5)
- D. There will be 7 years of the Great Tribulation. (Matt. 24:21)
- E. There will be supernatural signs and wonders occurring in the heavens. (Joel 2:30-31; 3:15)
- F. The whole world will see Christ coming in blazing glory out of heaven. (Matt. 24:30)

IV. The Consequences of the Day

- A. The judgment is going to destroy the whole universe.
- B. No one will escape, not one. (1 Thessalonians 5:3)
- C. The writer of Hebrews put it this way...Hebr. 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...
- D. What an important message that is to tell people.

V. Conclusion

1Ths. 5:9 ...God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.