

Children of the Day

Promise: For children of the day Christ's return will be joyous

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Zeph 1:7-16; Ps 90:1-12; 1Thes. 5:1-11; Matt 25:14-30
(24th Sunday after Pentecost, 11/15/20)

For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. – v. 5

Lead In – As I was growing up my dad was fond of quoting 1 Thes 5:5 to me, usually as I struggled to get out of bed in the morning. *Rise and shine. We are children of the light and of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness.* As was typical youths, I wanted to stay up late at night, and then sleep in the morning for as long as I could. However, my dad did not make that easy for me...

I. For Some the Day of the Lord Will Be A Terror!

- Because no one knows the day or hour...
- Just exactly what is the "Day of the Lord"?
- Emphasis on suddenness for the unprepared...
- There are some things you cannot escape...

II. The Figurative Meaning of Awake, and of Day...

- The children of light will not be caught off guard!
- Figurative for *walking in the light of God's Word*...
- Sleep and lack of sobriety represents...

III. Children of The Day Can Rejoice!

- More than equipped for the assault on evil...
- God did not destine us for wrath! But to obtain...
- The effect of Jesus' death on our behalf...

Parting Shot – Last Sunday in the Parable of the Ten Virgins we learned that we each have to have our own flask of oil. That is, we must see to it that the gift of faith is continually sustained by the means of Grace, Word and Sacrament. We have to have this for ourselves. It cannot be borrowed from another. But in our present lesson, we learn we can help one another! We can encourage one another to avail ourselves to the means of grace. We can encourage each other to live in the light of God's Word as Children of the Day.

Mt 24:36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only."

Ac 1:7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority."

The Day of the Lord: The day in which the Risen Christ will return in resplendent glory to judge the living and the dead. He will bring this present age to a close. He will vindicate His people and judge the world in righteousness.

Mt 24:43 "But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into."

Children of the Day – walk in the Son Shine of His Word...

Ep 5:8-9 For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

Ps 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 RSV

The Day of the Lord

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

2Pe 1:19 And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Walking in Darkness: in impenitence and unbelief that ultimately leads to destruction.

Ro 13:12-14 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Ep 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Ep 5:15-16 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Sobriety: Temperate, moderate, and a with a kind of seriousness.

Breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of the hope of salvation. (cf. Ep 6:11, 14)

He 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

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