

# LG | Leader

## [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 – Self Guided]

### WARM-UP (10 mins)

Prepare your mind to receive God's word. Take a moment to be silent. Pray for your mind to receive God's Word.

### ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read chapter 5:1-11. Who is the author and audience of this book? Why did our author write this text? Who is Silvanus?  
Paul is responding to a report from Timothy concerning the believers in Thessalonica. Paul had been kicked out of the city during his last visit there (see Acts 17). Because of this, he sent Timothy to report back concerning the new believers. Silvanus was the nickname of Silas.
2. Paul states in verse 1 that “you have no need to have anything written to you.” Why do you think Paul is writing to the Thessalonians in this way?  
Paul believes some of the Thessalonian's questions concerning the Second Coming are rooted in anxiety and idle curiosity. Paul does not think he should have to write to them to address these concerns because “they should know better.”
3. What are some of the descriptors used to describe the Second Coming of Christ?  
Sudden destruction; Like a thief in the night; As labor pains come upon a pregnant woman
4. How are we to respond to this warning of the Second Coming?  
Like the Thessalonians, we are to be alert and sober-minded. To be found neglecting such a great salvation would be a heartbreaking reality (Heb. 2:3). Therefore, we must continue our pursuit of Christ and work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12).
5. What do you think Paul means when he speaks of “whether we are awake or asleep” in verse 9-10?  
The Thessalonians were struggling with the idea of death and those who have died. They were beginning to believe that Jesus had already come (over realized eschatology). Paul is using much of this letter to clarify some of this confusion (see 4:13-18). Whether we are alive or dead, we can have assurance of our salvation through faith in Christ that we will spend eternity with Him.
6. What type of picture is painted for us concerning the Second Coming in chapter 4:13-18?  
Generally, what are the sequence of events concerning Christ's return? Does this differ from what you understand about the Second Coming?

There will be a cry of command from the voice of an archangel. The dead (those asleep) who are in Christ will rise first, followed by those who are alive (those awake) who will meet the Lord in the air.

7. What do you think is the root of Paul's desire for the Thessalonians to "encourage one another and build one another up?"

Paul does not want any of these new believers to be swayed by anxiety or fear of "missing" the Second Coming. We are to remind and encourage each other with sound doctrine so that we can be built up and prepared for the Day of the Lord.

8. What three words could you use to summarize this text if you were to teach this passage to someone else?

Faith, Hope, Love (v.8)

## **PRAY**

**Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.**