

CHOSEN TO SALVATION
CHILDREN OF LIGHT, CHILDREN OF THE DAY
(I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-11)

Children of light, children of the day, so are we who have been born again! The message here from Paul opens the eyes to understand why we are not going to suffer Tribulation, the Great Tribulation, that is. In a promise given to Paul direct from the Lord, Yahshua, said, For this we declare to you by the Lord's word, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall in no way precede or have any advantage at all over those who have precious fallen asleep [in Him in death]. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first. Then we, the living ones who remain, shall simultaneously be caught up along with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so always we shall be with the Lord (4:15-17).

Paul starts the next chapter with the words, But as to the suitable times and the precise seasons and dates, brethren, you have no necessity for anything being written to you (vs. 1 of chapter 5). Why is it so important for us to have this statement? Because Yahshua had already said that neither the day nor the hour of His coming, we will know, only God. His coming is imminent like a thief in the night, no time in the day, or the day is known, and no signs of His coming for His bride will precede it. For this reason the bride of Christ must be prepared as children of light and of the day, for that day not to find her unprepared.

As the evil days approach, it will be a feeling of fear and anxieties as we are experiencing now. The words of Yahshua to His disciples are very much useful for us today. He warned them not to be given to worries of this life in view of what is happening, so that they would not end up with overburdened hearts, depressed and given to drunkenness. Keep awake, He said and watch at all times, praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things that will take place and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man (Luke 21:34-36). "To stand in the presence of the Son of Man" is to have escaped the Tribulation.

Paul here echoes, in some ways the warning of Yahshua, as he brings us to the need of awareness, alertness and watchfulness. A child of God has no need to worry in these last days, because he/she is son and daughter of light and of the day. The child of God must have the understanding of times as these, and who is in control, for them not to be given to worries, and be lead to confusion and away from truth. Paul warns us to be dressed in the armor of God, as in the breastplate of faith and love, and with the helmet the hope of salvation. We know that the breastplate covers and protects the vital organs of the body, including the heart, where faith and love reside. It is in this organ that the soul is expressed through the emotions. To be dressed with the breastplate is to be dressed with integrity. Integrity is being wholesome; is being of sound moral principle; unbroken and perfect condition; righteous, honest and sincere (Webster's dictionary). To be dressed with the breastplate of love and faith is necessary for our behavior to be interpreted as one who belongs to Christ and to lead others to Him. They are the works of the children of light.

The helmet, the hope of salvation, is that piece of the armor that protects the mind. We believe with the heart, yes, but it is with the mind that the heart is fed whatever comes our way. The helmet- the hope of salvation, needs to be applied against the storm of fear and lies. It is necessary to secure the faith and the hope given to us as the helmet of protection, believing that God's Words are true and no matter what happens in this world, He will fulfill His promises to us. He is the author, the consummator, the Alpha and the Omega of all things created and the planner and finisher of the direction of the world.

The world is after peace, the false peace. That peace will come to them, but when they think to be secured, destruction will take over the world. When Israel signs the peace agreement with the Beast of Revelation, it is when God's wrath will be leashed on those who are on the earth at that time and they shall by no means escape (I Thessalonians 5:3). The agreement of false peace with the Beast is prophesied in Isaiah 28:14-15. It reads, Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem, Because you have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol, we have an agreement – when the overflowing scourge passes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter.

The children of light and of the day are not appointed to wrath, neither chosen to be condemned, but appointed to salvation through Yahshua, Who died for us so that whether we are still alive or are dead, we might live together with him and share His life (vs.- 11-12). And this is the reason why we must not worry and let fear control our spirit and soul. The works of darkness are for those who are sons of darkness. They will be the ones taken by surprise with no escape in sight for them; they will be the ones found drunk and sleeping, aloof and indifferent to the reality, until too late.

The children of light and of the day, however must be found encouraging the weak, the timid and fainthearted, they must be patient with everybody, controlling their temper; practicing kindness, and forgiveness; they must be rejoicing always and be content in faith, praying unceasingly thanking God in everything and circumstances, not quenching the Holy Spirit, not despising instruction or exhortation, or warnings, testing all things, abstaining from evil in whatever form or whatever kind it may be (I Thessalonians 5:12-22).

Many people are perishing in the darkness of their understanding and being led to their destruction, because there is no dawn for them. Reach out and touch them with the light of truth you have embraced. Pray, pray, pray! Free someone from the fire of hell and from the Great Tribulation. Deliver those who are drawn away to death and those who totter to the slaughter, hold them back [from their doom] (Proverbs 24:11); Save others, snatching [them out of [the] fire... (Jude 23). Let the light in you shine if you are children of light and of the day!

THINK ABOUT IT!

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