

Sermon Date: May 30, 2021

SERMON SERIES: Will You Be Ready?

SERMON TITLE: If You Take Care Today, Tomorrow Will Take Care of Itself

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-18

⁹ But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; ¹¹ that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, ¹² that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing. ¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Sermon Summary:

To many people live in the past or they spend all their time wishing for a better future. Why? If each of us were to examine our thoughts, we almost certainly will find them all occupied with the past and the future. We scarcely ever think of the present; and if we think of it, it is only to take light from it to arrange the future. Paul, in his letter to the church at Thessalonica wants to convey a clear message. The future is critically important, but the best way to care for the future is to care for the present.

Introduction:

The Apostle Paul seemed to have many pleasant memories of the days he spent with the infant Thessalonian church. Their faith, hope, love, and perseverance in the face of persecution he commends as being exemplary. His labors as a spiritual father to the fledgling church have been richly rewarded, and his affection is visible throughout his letter. Paul encourages them to excel in their newfound faith, to increase in their love for one another, and to rejoice, pray, and give thanks always. He then closes his letter with instructions regarding the return of the Lord, whose advent should signify hope and comfort for believers both living and dead. Today and tomorrow synonymous, as every “today” becomes a “tomorrow”. With today in mind, the Apostle Paul opens this fourth chapter with a plea for sanctified living then moves to instruction on the orderliness of that living. Finally, he turns his attention to “tomorrow” as he illuminates the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today – on or in the course of this present day or time

Tomorrow – the day after today; or a time after the present

Key Question

FOCUS #1 – How Should We Take Care of Today**1. Love One Another**

4:9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

Increase More and More

4:10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;

2. Lead Quiet Lives (This does not mean dull)

4:11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life,

I Timothy 6:17

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

Ecclesiastes 11:9

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.

Proverbs 15:3

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

3. Be Intentional About Our Own Affairs

4:11 to mind your own business,

Matthew 7:5

Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

4. Not Be Lazy and Haphazard

4:11 and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

5. Treat Others Fairly

4:12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

Luke 6:31

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

Mark 12:31

And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

6. Grieve With Hope

4:13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

FOCUS #2 – How Is Tomorrow Taken Care Of

4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Today - Believe Now → Tomorrow - Future Hope

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

FOCUS #3 – How We Find Comfort Until Tomorrow

4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

When We Live with Christ's Return in View

SERMON NOTES

4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Conclusion:

Our responsibility is to take care of our today, because God has already taken care of our tomorrow through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Since Jesus could come back tomorrow, how should we be living in the light of that reality?