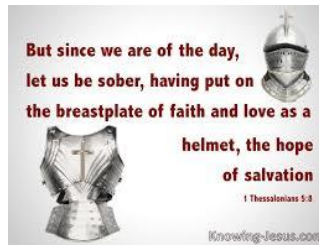




April 7, 2024



## A Call to Action

***5 "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."***

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The phrase "the day of the Lord" is used often in the Old Testament (e.g. [Isaiah 2:12](#); [13:6](#), [9](#); [Ezekiel 13:5](#), [30:3](#); [Joel 1:15](#), [2:1,11,31](#); [3:14](#); [Amos 5:18,20](#); [Obadiah 15](#); [Zephaniah 1:7,14](#); [Zechariah 14:1](#); [Malachi 4:5](#)) and several times in the New Testament (e.g. [Acts 2:20](#); [1 Corinthians 5:5](#); [2 Corinthians 1:14](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:2](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:2](#); [2 Peter 3:10](#)). It is also alluded to in other passages ([Revelation 6:17](#); [16:14](#)).

Some scholars believe that the day of the Lord will be a longer period of time than a single day—a period of time when Christ will reign throughout the world before He cleanses heaven and earth in preparation for the eternal state of all mankind. Other scholars believe the day of the Lord will be an instantaneous event when Christ returns to earth to redeem His faithful believers and send unbelievers to eternal damnation.

2 Peter 3: 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Besides being a time of judgment, it will also be a time of salvation as God will deliver the remnant of Israel, fulfilling His promise that “all of Israel will be saved” ([Romans 11:26](#)), forgiving their sins and restoring His chosen people to the land He promised to Abraham ([Isaiah 10:27](#); Jeremiah 30:19-31, 40; [Micah 4](#); [Zechariah 13](#)). The final outcome of the day of the Lord will be that “the arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day” ([Isaiah 2:17](#)). The ultimate or final fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the day of the Lord will come at the end of history when God, with wondrous power, will punish evil and fulfill all His promises.

*He knows that Who/what we are looking for will (or at least should) radically impact Who/what we are living for!*

**Here is the main point-** Understanding THAT Jesus is coming back should bring about change in our lives. (2 Peter 3:11) **Titus 2:11-14**

- **A Confirmation of their Standing-** *4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.*

✓ **Not in darkness**

**Not of night nor of darkness** - The word for **not** signifies absolutely not! Believers are absolutely not in either of these categories (of night... of darkness) which describe unbelievers.

✓ Sons of the light

DAY PEOPLE	NIGHT PEOPLE
Spiritual Life	Spiritual Death
Hope	No hope
Dwell in spiritual light	Dwell in spiritual darkness
Spiritually Alert	Spiritually Asleep
Spiritually Sober	Spiritually Drunk
Forever With the Lord	Never With the Lord

**✓ DON'T FORGET WHO YOU ARE**

➤ **A Caution against them Sleeping- 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.**

- Sleep speaks of ignorance.

- Sleep speaks of insensibility.
- Sleep speaks of no defense.
- Sleep speaks of inactivity.

### ✓ **Watch**

**Let us be alert** (1127) ([gregoreuo](#) from **egeiro** = to arise, arouse, rouse from sleep, waken) means to be watchful or to refrain from physical sleep. Later **gregoreuo** came to be used in the moral and religious sphere and in this context was used to call for one to **be on the alert** (quick to perceive and act) in a **constant state of readiness** (being on the lookout especially for danger or opportunity) and **vigilant** (alertly watchful especially to avoid danger this word suggesting intense, unremitting, wary watchfulness; keenly alert to or heedful of trouble or danger as others are sleeping or unsuspecting).

Secular Greek used **gregoreuo** to describe people carefully crossing a river while stepping on slippery stones. If they did not pay strict attention to their steps, they would end up in the water. So the idea of vigilance is to stay alert and cautious.

**Gregoreuo** is used three times in Mark 13 which closes with an exhortation to watchfulness and prayer in view of the Lord's Return. Jesus' addressing His disciples, Peter and James and John and Andrew, on the Mount of Olives tells them a parable of the doorkeeper, declaring that  
It is like a man, away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to **stay on the alert** ([gregoreuo](#)). Therefore, **be on the alert** ([gregoreuo](#) - [present imperative](#))-- for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning-- lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all, '**Be on the alert** ([gregoreuo](#) - [present imperative](#))!' ([Mark 13:34, 35, 36, 37](#))

### ✓ **Be sober**

Our English counterpart is to be levelheaded, well-balanced, and in control of one's faculties. By extension it includes the ideas of being stable, unwavering, steadfast.

**2 Timothy 4:5** But **watch** ([present imperative](#)) thou in all things, endure ([aorist imperative](#)) afflictions, do ([aorist imperative](#)) the work of an evangelist, make full proof ([aorist imperative](#)) of thy ministry.

**1 Peter 1:13** Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be **sober**, and hope (**aurist imperative**) to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

**1 Peter 4:7** But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, (**aurist imperative**) and **watch** (**aurist imperative**) unto prayer.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be **sober**, (**aurist imperative**) G3525 be vigilant (**WATCH**); (**aurist imperative**). because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Aorist imperative- urgent, positive one time command  
Present imperative- general command

**Someone has said, "You should treat every day as if it's your last one, because one of these days you're going to be right."**

When the body sleeps it neither eats nor drinks: so it is with the soul.

In a sermon on this text titled, Awake! Awake! Spurgeon showed the folly and tragedy of the sleeping Christian with three powerful pictures:

- A city suffers under the plague, with an official walking the streets crying out, "Bring out the dead! Bring out the dead!" All the while, a doctor with the cure in his pocket sleeps.
- A passenger ship reels under a storm and is about to crash on the rocks, bringing near-certain death to the hundreds of passengers — all the while, the captain sleeps.
- A prisoner in his cell is about ready to be led to execution; his heart is terrified at the thought of hanging from his neck, terrified of death, and of what awaits him after death. All the while, a man with a letter of pardon for the condemned man sits in another room — and sleeps.

**The idea is of a church full of active participants, not passive spectators.**

**✓ DON'T FORGET TO STAY ALERT**

- **A Challenge to their Security- 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the**

**hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.**

### ✓ **Breastplate**

**Having put on (enduo from en = in + dúo = to sink, go in or under, to put on) means literally to clothe or dress someone and to put on as a garment, to cause to get into a garment (Luke 15:22 where the father says "quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him...").**

**Aorist tense in this context indicates this putting on is a past completed action and includes the idea that this action was decisive.**

The breastplate was a piece of armor that covered the soldier's body from neck to waist and protected his heart, the very center of his life and the spring of his vital forces.

**III.** How often do you think of the organs of the heart and brain?

**Polybius** tells us that the **breastplate** was known as a heart-protector. Usually it was made of bronze but the more affluent officers wore a coat of chain mail. The front piece was strictly the breastplate, but a back piece was commonly worn as well.

**In respect to COMBAT.** [1 Timothy 6:12](#): "Fight the good fight of faith." In order to fight, a Christian must get his *armor* and *weapons* ready.

### ✓ **Helmet**

A Roman soldier who had lost his helmet was in danger of receiving severe head wounds which would (at the very least) disorient him and render him ineffective and in danger of further injury. Similarly, a Christian who has no assurance of salvation (or has "lost his hope") cannot be bold in resisting Satan.

**John MacArthur** illustrates how the enemy attacks the believer's mind writing that... Satan's "broadsword" has two sides to it: discouragement and doubt. Satan wants to belt you in the head with **discouragement** and **doubt**. His attacks of **discouragement** might go like this:

*You sure are giving a lot and not getting much in return. You're circumscribing your life to a certain standard and setting yourself apart from the world. But what happens? You just*

*lost your job! Some blessing! You've been reading your Bible every day, but your wife is as cranky as she was before you bought it, and it hasn't had any effect on her. What is God doing in your life? You've been going to church for years, but look at your kids. They don't respect you today anymore than they ever did.*

That would discourage anyone. You might have been teaching a class for a long time, yet wonder if anyone is getting anything out of it. That could discourage you. Satan also wants to hit you in the head with **doubt**:

*How do you know you're a Christian? Are you sure you're saved? You certainly don't deserve to be; look what you just did! Do you think that's what a Christian does?*

Many people suffer from doubt and discouragement, but the **helmet of salvation** is our protection. ([MacArthur, J.. The Believer's Armor. Chicago: Moody Press 1986](#))

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.  
On Christ the Solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

Hebrews 6:19-20

Wake up! ([1Thes 5:6](#))

Clean up! ([1Thes 5:7](#))

Dress up! ([1Thes 5:8](#))

For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; 8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ([Romans 14:7-9](#))

**"With head and heart right, the whole man is right"**

**✓ DON'T FORGET YOU ARE IN A BATTLE**

➤ **A Commitment of their Sincerity- *11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.***"

## ✓ **Comfort**

Hebrews 3:13-note But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24-25-

## ✓ **Edify**

An 89-year-old man who enjoys creating new words to describe old problems calls a person who finds fault with everything an *againstovist*. "Whatever you suggest," he says, "that person is against it, and will find something wrong with everything you do."

**What Type Are You?** - There are two types of people in the world," someone once said, "those who come into a room and say, 'Here I am!' and those who come in and say, 'Ah, there you are!'"

***"It is clear that in the primitive churches the care of souls was not delegated to an individual officer, or even the more gifted brethren among them; it was a work in which every believer might have a share."***  
***(Hiebert)***

**✓ DON'T FORGET OTHERS**

**How are you doing in light of Christ's coming again?**