



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Thessalonians Sermon Series

Supports Session 8: Returning!

Sermon Title: Be ready!

Passage: 1 Thessalonians 5:2-5

---

### Connection to 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The passage being studied deals with the topic of Christ's return. Meant for both the saved and the unsaved, this message highlights the need for all to be ready for Jesus's return.

### Introduction/Opening

Imagine a movie scene that has been played out many times: a woman in labor while in a taxi to the hospital, suffering in agony while stuck in traffic. The cab driver, worried to get the soon-to-be mom to a doctor in time, profusely sweats while steering around traffic, honking his horn, and yelling out of his window at the cars in front of him. When will the baby arrive? In an hour? Five minutes? One minute? Even more importantly: will the taxi make it?

Thankfully, the taxi makes it to the hospital. As soon as the yellow car drives up to the emergency room entrance, medical personnel rush to the taxi and move the woman to the nearest room, making it just in time.

Although an imperfect illustration, this story in many ways can be compared to the return of Christ. The world is in labor, suffering immense pain and agony while awaiting His promised entrance into the earth. The church is desperately hanging on for dear life, unsure of when He will arrive, but still driving forward. When will Jesus come? Is it soon? But even more important, are we ready?

### Outline

1. Don't be surprised by Christ's return (vv. 2-4)
  - a. In 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18, Paul wrote that they could look forward to Christ's return because they will always be with the Lord. They were to be encouraged by these words.
  - b. But this is also a sobering time because Jesus could come at any minute. Paul compared the return to a "thief in the night" (v. 2).
    - i. Paul reminded us that while people are thinking all is well and doing their normal routines, destruction will come. It'll be unexpected. People will act like everything is secure. That there's peace. But the opposite will take place.
    - ii. This is like what Jesus said when He compared His return to the time of Noah when everyone had their routine, normal lives. (See Matthew 24.)

- c. But when will that time come?
    - i. In Matthew 24:36, Jesus told His disciples that no one knows, not “the angels of heaven nor the Son—except the Father alone.
    - ii. “The Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matt. 24:44).
    - iii. In Matthew 25:13 Jesus repeated, “...you don’t know the day or the hour” of His return.
  - d. For those who are not believers, this day will be a day of “sudden destruction” (1 Thess. 5:3). Many have a false confidence in the things of the earth.
    - i. John the apostle warned us about this in 1 John 2:15-17.
    - ii. Paul brought up that those who are of the world claim to have peace and security, yet that is a false confidence that will be shattered on the day of the Lord.
  - e. Therefore, the church must be sober-minded and ready for Christ.
    - i. To be sober is to be clearheaded, serious, and focused on the things of Christ.
    - ii. We must be sober-minded, growing and serving Christ daily to bring more people to Him while waiting for His return.
2. Live as if today is the day of Christ’s return (v. 5).
- a. Those who know Christ are of the light and of the day.
    - i. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus literally called His followers the light of the world.
  - b. Do not be in the dark and be surprised like a thief.
    - i. Paul illustrated this with a contrast between the church and the world:
      - 1. We “are not in the dark” (v. 4), “We do not belong to the night or the darkness” (v. 5), “let us not sleep, like the rest” (v. 6), “those who sleep, sleep at night” (v. 7)
      - 2. Instead, the church is to be (see 8-10): Self-controlled (v. 8), wearing the armor of faith and love (v. 8), wearing the helmet of salvation (v. 8), hopeful about their future salvation with Christ (vv. 9-10)

## Conclusion

So far, this has been for those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God loves you and desires for you to have eternal life. We are sinners, separated from God due to our sins. Jesus became flesh, lived a perfect, sinless, life, and became our substitute on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He rose from the grave on the third day. We can trust Jesus as Lord and Savior for eternal life. For those who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus, today can be the day to become one of His children. A child of God is no longer of the night or of the darkness. Instead, a child of God is of the day and of the light. Choose that today.

---

*Fran Trascritti is a husband, father, grandfather, but most of all, a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has served in ministry for over twenty-seven years, and currently serves as the Administrative Director of the Growth Team at the Illinois Baptist State Association. He graduated from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, PhD). He and his wife, Teresa, live in Springfield, Illinois.*

*All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2020 by Holman Bible Publishers.*