

1 Thessalonians

Grown up...in the Light

1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11

Mark 13

1 Thess. 5: 1-11 – ADVENT PAST

Recalling gratefully the Lord's coming as a past event of history

The Thessalonians had.....

“Turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and his Son Jesus”

1 Thess. 5: 1-11 – ADVENT PRESENT

Remembering brings Past into Present

Spurs us to action in daily life

Thessalonians “stood firm in the Lord” 3:8

- **Living a holy life**
- **Not exploiting others for personal advantage**
- **Brotherly love**
- ☐ **“Living in order to please God” 4:1**

1 Thess. 5: 1-11 – ADVENT FUTURE

The Lord's future Appearing – a dominant theme of 1 & 2 Thess.

“You turned to God.... To wait for his Son from heaven....Jesus who delivers us from the coming wrath”

- A source of hope and joy

But also

- Cause for confusion and anxiety

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 – Advent Future Hope & Joy//Confusion & Anxiety. Which is it?

Roman and Greek thought

- No sense of hope about the Hereafter
- Death a tragic loss both to deceased and those left behind

The Christian

- ❖ Trust in the Risen Jesus creates eternal relationship surviving death
- ❖ “So we will be with the Lord for ever.” 4:17
- ❖ “Encourage each other with these words.” 4:18

1 Thess. 5: 1-11 – Advent Future

Living in these “in-between” times

When?

- **PAROUSIA - Appearance; Visitation**
- **The only certainty is uncertainty**
- **The watchword is Watchfulness**

Be Prepared!

- Live to win the respect of outsiders**
- Be Alert, ready to welcome Jesus**
- Be People of the Light**

1 Thess. 5: 1-11. Advent – Living in the Light

A series of Contrasts: “Them” and “Us”

- “Them” = Benighted.” The realm of night or darkness
 - “Us” = Sons and Daughters of Light
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- Be examples and imitators of Jesus, the Light of the World
 - Self-control
 - Wear the “armour” of Faith, Hope and Love to make for a life worth living

1 Thess.5: 1-11. ADVENT'S IMPLICATIONS

1) **Cling to/ cherish the hope of the Lord's Appearing & Kingdom**

Equally

2) **Reflect on the challenge of Advent today**

How can we/do we advance the Lord's Kingdom here on earth in these "in-between" times?