



Two Kinds of People; Two Ways to Live

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

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you have no need of anything to be written to you.
For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord
will come just like a thief in the night.
While they are saying, “Peace and safety!”
then destruction will come upon them suddenly
like labor pains upon a woman with child,
and they will not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-8

But you, brethren, are not in darkness,
that the day would overtake you like a thief;
for you are all sons of light and sons of day.
We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us
not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
For those who sleep do their sleeping at night,
and those who get drunk get drunk at night.
But since we are of the day, let us be sober,
having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

For God has not destined us for wrath,
but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep,
we will live together with Him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up
one another, just as you also are doing.

Main Point

There are only two kinds of people in this world; and their natures, their destinies, and their ways of life are radically different.

Two Natures, Two Destinies, Two Ways

Two Natures



1 Thessalonians 5:4-5

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that the day would overtake you like a thief;
for you are all sons of light and sons of day.
We are not of night nor of darkness.



Two Natures

There are sons of darkness.

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Ephesians 5:8

For you were formerly darkness.

The natural condition of mankind
is darkness because all people
are born as children of darkness
and are sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

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indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind,

and were **by nature** children of wrath, even as the rest.

John 8:44

“You are of your father the devil,
and you want to do the desires of your father.
He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not
stand in the truth because there is no truth in him.
Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from
his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

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for you are all sons of light and sons of day.

We are not of night nor of darkness.

Darkness dominates the mind
and heart of all those who have
not been born again, and it obscures
their ability to see or understand.

Romans 1:21

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and **their foolish heart was darkened.**

Ephesians 4:17–18

They walk... in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them.



Two Natures

Sons of darkness.

There are sons of light.

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Ephesians 5:8

For **you were formerly darkness**,
but now you are Light in the Lord;
walk as children of Light.

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1 John 1:5

God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Ephesians 5:1

Therefore be imitators of God **as beloved children.**

If you have been born of God,
your very nature has been
changed from darkness to light;
you have become a child of the Light,
and you no longer walk in darkness!
You are now radically different!

Two Natures, Two Destinies, Two Ways

Two Natures

Two Destinies

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren,
you have no need of anything to be written to you.
For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord
will come just like a thief in the night.

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What is the day of the Lord and
how is it related to Christ's return?

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Acts 1:7

He said to them, “It is not for you to know **times or epochs**
which the Father has fixed by His own authority.”

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you have no need of anything to be written to you.

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Matthew 24:43

“But be sure of this, that if the head of the house
had known at **what time of the night the thief was coming,**
he would have been on the alert and would not have
allowed his house to be broken into.”

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

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that you not be quickly shaken from your composure
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1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we who are alive and remain
will be caught up together with them.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

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of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,

that you not be quickly shaken from your composure
or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter

as if from us, to the effect **that the day of the Lord has come.**

Christ's Coming and the Day of the Lord are the same event from different perspectives. The focus of Christ's coming is resurrection and deliverance for the sons of light, whereas the focus of the day of the Lord is judgment for the sons of darkness.

1Thessalonians 1:10

...and to wait for His Son from heaven,
whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus,
who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God has not destined us for wrath,
but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.



Two Destinies

For the sons of darkness--
sudden destruction.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

While they are saying, “Peace and safety!”
then destruction will come upon them suddenly
like labor pains upon a woman with child,
and they will not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

For you yourselves know full well that the day
of the Lord will come just **like a thief in the night.**

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then destruction will come upon them suddenly
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and **they will not escape.**

Matthew 24:37-39

“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away;
so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

The Day of the Lord--Background

Isaiah 13:6

Wail, for the day of the LORD is near!
It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Ezekiel 30:3

For the day is near, even the day of the LORD is near;
It will be a day of clouds, **a time of doom for the nations.**

Joel 2:11

The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome,
And **who can endure it?**

The day of the Lord is the day of
reckoning; it is the day of great judgment;
it is the day of destruction for all those
who have not believed on Christ!
The sons of darkness are destined
for sudden destruction!



Two Destinies

For the sons of darkness -- sudden destruction.

For the sons of light--
a sure salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:4 and 8

But you, brethren, are not in darkness,
that the day would overtake you like a thief;
for you are all sons of light and sons of day.

But since we are of the day, let us be sober,
having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

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But **since we are of the day**, let us be sober,
having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and as a helmet, the **hope of salvation**.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

**For God has not destined us for wrath,
but for obtaining salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep,
we will live together with Him.

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Ephesians 2:4

But God

, being rich in mercy,
because of His great love with which He loved us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions,
made us alive together with Christ,
by grace you have been saved!

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made us alive together with Christ,

by grace you have been saved!

Salvation is entirely God's work; and
through Jesus' death and resurrection,
He accomplished it and secured it
for all those who will believe on Him.
Ours is a radically different destiny!

Two Natures, Two Destinies, Two Ways

Two Natures

Two Destinies

Two Ways of Life

1 Thessalonians 5:5-8

We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

For those who sleep do their sleeping at night,
and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

But since we are of the day, let us be sober,
having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.



Two Ways of Life

The way of indulgence.

1 Thessalonians 5:5-7

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and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

1 Thessalonians 5:5-7

We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us
not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

**For those who sleep do their sleeping at night,
and those who get drunk get drunk at night.**

Romans 13:13

Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.

Ephesians 4:19

And they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

Ephesians 2:3

Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh,
indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind,
and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

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indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind,
and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

The way of the unrighteous,
the sons of darkness, is the way
of selfish indulgence.



Two Ways of Life

The way of indulgence.

The way of sobriety.

1 Thessalonians 5:5-6 and 8

We are *not* of night *nor* of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:5-6 and 8

We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us

not sleep as others do, but **let us be alert and sober.**

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1 Thessalonians 5:5-6 and 8

We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us

not sleep as others do, but **let us be alert and sober.**

But since we are of the day, **let us be sober...**

1 Thessalonians 5:4

But you, brethren, are not in darkness,
that the day would overtake you like a thief;
for you are all sons of light and sons of day.

Sons of the light will not be surprised or alarmed when the day of the Lord comes because they are sober-minded and walk in the Light and bear the fruit of the Light.

Ephesians 5:8-10

For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:8-10

For you were formerly darkness, but now
you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light
(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness
and righteousness and truth),
trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

The sons of Light walk in the light
and live so as to please the Lord.
They live radically different lives!

Conclusion

Are you a child of the light?
Have you believed on Jesus for life?

Does your way of life testify
that you are a child of the light?

Consider the two destinies:
Are you sure of yours?