

**The Church and The Blessed Hope**  
**“Rapture, Not Wrath” (B)**  
**I Thessalonians 5:1-11**

**I. Christians Will Not Go Through the Tribulation**

a. “*We are children of the light and children of the day,*” vv. 4-5.

Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! To what end is it for you? The day of the Lord is darkness, and not light. Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness, and not light? Even very dark, and no brightness in it [Amos 18, 20]? The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly...That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.

Why? The church, the light of the world is taken out! II Thess. 2

Contrast: “they” vs. 3 with “ye” vs. 4.

**Pretribulationism**

1. The church is never mentioned on earth during the tribulation. *Illus.* Rev. 2-3; chp. 4-5; & chp. 6-19; the church not part of the day of the Lord.
2. The church of Philadelphia, promised to be kept from the tribulation, Rev. 3:10.
3. The Doctrine of Imminency, 1:10. John 14 and 4:18, a comfort and 5:11. Are you a child of the light? A child of the day?

**II. How Should We then Live?** vv. 6-8

- a. Neg. “don’t sleep.” vs. 6 and vs. 7. What kind of sleep? *Illus.:* Spiritual lethargy and indifference to spiritual things.
- b. Be Watchful and Be Sober, vv. 6 & 8. Be awake spiritually, Eph. 5:14.
  - a. A breastplate of faith and love.
  - b. A helmet, the hope of salvation, what? 1:3 & 1:9-10.

**III. Christians Will Not Go Through the Tribulation,** vv. 9-10.

“We are not appointed to wrath,” same as 1:10 and the trib, God’s wrath, Rev. 6-19.

Jesus took our wrath on the cross, vs. 10.

So the nature of the church, Christ, bride and body!

#### **IV. How Should We Then Live?** vs. 11

In the community of Christians. Doing what?

1. Comforting yourselves together.
2. Edify one another.

“Even as ye do” (keep up the good work)

How? Our example, spiritual gifts, love, prayer, and sharing God’s word.

#### **Contrast!**

1. Knowledge - Ignorance, vv. 1-2
2. Expectancy - Surprise, vv. 3-5
3. Soberness - Drunkenness, vv. 6-8
4. Salvation - Wrath, vv. 9-10