

"DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME"

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

TWENTY-FIFTH S. A. PENTECOST (SECOND-LAST S. IN CH. YR.)

MESSIAH, BOERNE

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY  
SPIRIT. AMEN.

READ TEXT: "FOR YOU ARE CHILDREN OF LIGHT, CHILDREN OF THE  
DAY. . . . FOR GOD HAS NOT DESTINED US FOR  
WRATH, BUT TO OBTAIN SALVATION THROUGH OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST, WHO DIED FOR US SO THAT WHETHER WE  
ARE AWAKE OR ASLEEP WE MIGHT LIVE WITH HIM.  
THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD ONE  
ANOTHER UP, JUST AS YOU HAVE BEEN DOING." (VV 5,  
9-11)

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST:

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH,  
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I HAVE HEARD ON THE NEWS. APPEARENTLY  
IN THE SPRINGTIME WHEN WE HAVE TO "SPRING FORWARD" FOR  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BY TURNING OUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR,  
HEART ATTACKS INCREASE. THIS IS BAD NEWS FOR UNBELIEVERS,  
THOSE WHO ONLY HAVE HOPE FOR THIS LIFE (1 THESS 4:13),  
BECAUSE IF THEY DIE WITHOUT FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
THEY WILL BE LOST FOREVER. BUT FOR US BELIEVERS, THOSE WHO  
ARE CALLED "CHILDREN OF LIGHT" AND "CHILDREN OF THE DAY" (v  
5) IN OUR TEXT THIS MORNING, THIS SHOULD GIVE US ADDED  
URGENCY TO TELL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT  
JESUS. YOU SEE, WE ARE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS, THE TIME  
WHEN THOSE WHO ARE "OF THE DAY" (V 5), WHO KNOW THE WAY OF  
"SALVATION THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST" (V 9), ARE TO

TELL THOSE WHO ARE "OF THE NIGHT" AND "OF THE DARKNESS" (V 5) THAT "JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD" (JN 20:31) SO THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED. FOR YOU AND ME, TODAY—INDEED, *EVERYDAY—IS TRULY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME.*

NOW, PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES, WITH THE EXCEPTION ARIZONA, HAWAII, AND U.S. TERRITORIES, AS WELL AS MANY OTHER PEOPLE ON EARTH, OBSERVE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME. *SPIRITUALLY* SPEAKING, HOWEVER, MOST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE STILL LIVING "IN DARKNESS" (V 4). THEY ARE UNAWARE AND UNABLE TO CONFESS THAT "JESUS IS LORD" (1 COR 12:3) AND THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING. ONLY ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS EVEN NOMINALLY CHRISTIAN, SO THAT MEANS THAT AROUND FIVE BILLION PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR. THEY ARE STILL LIVING IN THE DARK. NO ONE HAS EVER TOLD THEM ABOUT JESUS AND ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR THEM AND THEIR SALVATION. THEY DO NOT KNOW OF THEIR SAVIOR'S LOVE. THEY DO NOT KNOW THAT JESUS SUFFERED AND DIED ON THE CROSS FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF THEIR SINS AND ROSE AGAIN FOR THEIR SALVATION. HAVING NEVER HEARD WITH UNDERSTANDING "THE WORD OF CHRIST," THEY ARE WITHOUT SAVING FAITH AND LIVING "IN DARKNESS" (ROM 10:17; V 4).

WHILE CERTAIN ACTIVITIES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DAYLIGHT AND DAYTIME, SUCH AS BEING AWAKE, WALKING ABOUT,

AND WORKING, OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DARKNESS AND NIGHT, SUCH AS SLEEPING AND GETTING DRUNK. PAUL MENTIONS THESE ACTIVITIES IN OUR TEXT METAPHORICALLY AS REPRESENTING UNBELIEF AND IMMORAL BEHAVIOR. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH SLEEP, IN AND OF ITSELF. IN FACT, THE BODY AND MIND NEED SUFFICIENT SLEEP IN ORDER TO BE RENEWED AND RESTORED. SLEEP IS GOOD. BUT TOO MUCH SLEEP, OR SLEEPING WHEN YOU SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING ELSE, IS BAD. IT'S THE SAME WITH DRINKING. DRINKING WITH MODERATION IS OKAY AND HAS EVEN BEEN SHOWN TO BE BENEFICIAL IN SOME CASES. BUT DRINKING TOO MUCH—DRUNKENNESS—IS A SIN. INDEED, IT IS A "WORK OF THE FLESH" (GAL 5:19) AND, AS ST. PAUL WARNS THE GALATIANS, PEOPLE WHO *KEEP ON* GETTING DRUNK "WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD" (5:19).

THOSE WHO ARE DRUNKEN NEED TO SOBER UP, THOSE WHO ARE ASLEEP NEED TO WAKE UP, AND THOSE WHO ARE UNBELIEVERS NEED TO REPENT AND BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST FOR THEIR SALVATION. OTHERWISE, AS ST. PAUL WRITES, DESTRUCTION WILL COME UPON THEM SUDDENLY AS LABOR PAINS COME UPON A PREGNANT WOMAN, AND THEY WILL NOT ESCAPE. I REMEMBER LYING IN BED ASLEEP WHEN NORMA WAS PREGANANT WITH OUR FIRST SON, JOEL. SUDDENLY SHE SAT UP, SHOOK ME AWAKE, AND SAID, "IT'S TIME." WELL, JUST AS SUDDENLY CHRIST WILL RETURN IN JUDGEMENT. AS LABOR PAINS COME UPON A PREGNANT WOMAN, SO CHRIST WILL

BREAK INTO SATAN'S HOUSE OF DEATH AND TAKE GOD'S CHILDREN, THAT IS, BELIEVERS—BOTH THOSE AWAKE AND SLEEPING, BOTH THOSE LIVING AND THOSE RISEN FROM THEIR GRAVES—TO LIVE ETERNALLY WITH HIM IN HEAVEN. BUT HE WILL CAST THE UNBELIEVERS "INTO THE OUTER DARKNESS." AS MATTHEW WRITES, "IN THAT PLACE, THERE WILL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH" (25:30).

BUT WE ARE NOT LIKE THOSE WHO ARE ASLEEP OR DRUNK, FOR WE ARE *CHILDREN OF THE DAY* (V 5). ALTHOUGH THE THESSALONIAN CHRISTIANS LIVED IN A CULTURE WHERE PEOPLE WORSHIPPED VARIOUS IDOLS AND PRACTICED FALSE RELIGIONS, THE THESSALONIAN CONGREGATION TO WHICH PAUL WROTE WAS DIFFERENT. IT WAS MADE UP OF PEOPLE WHO HAD

TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD, AND TO WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN, WHOM HE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, JESUS WHO DELIVERS US FROM THE WRATH TO COME. (1 THES 1:9-10)

THE THESSALONIAN CHRISTIANS WERE CHILDREN OF THE DAY, OF THE LIGHT, AND WERE FULLY AWARE THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD WAS COMING, HAVING BEEN TAUGHT BY THE APOSTLE PAUL HIMSELF (V 2).

WE TOO ARE FULLY AWARE THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING SOON. AS MEMBERS OF MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, WE HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST. MANY OF US ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS. MOST OF US HAVE RECEIVED

FURTHER INSTRUCTION IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH THROUGH JUNIOR CONFIRMATION OR ADULT INFORMATION CLASSES. WE TOO HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, WORSHIP THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD, AND RECEIVE CHRIST'S TRUE BODY AND BLOOD IN THE LORD'S SUPPER REGULARLY, THEREBY PROCLAIMING THE LORD'S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES (1 COR 11:26).

THROUGH THE GOSPEL, GOD HAS DESTINED US, THAT IS, PREDESTINED US (EPH 1:2), TO OBTAIN SALVATION THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. THE GOSPEL ASSURES US THAT, IF WE WERE TO DIE TONIGHT, WE WOULD GO TO LIVE WITH GOD IN THE ETERNAL DAYLIGHT OF HEAVEN. THIS IS NOT OUR OWN DOING BUT TOTALLY GOD'S GIFT BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, WHO FORGIVES US ALL OUR SINS. AND IN ORDER TO MAKE OUR CALLING IN CHRIST ALL-THE-MORE SURE, WE PUT ON THE FULL ARMOUR OF GOD (EPH 6:13), INCLUDING THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH IS OURS THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS, AND THE HELMET OF SALVATION, WHICH IS OUR SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE.

WHILE IT IS STILL DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME, WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, BEFORE IT IS NIGHT, WHEN NO ONE CAN WORK (JN 9:4). IT IS SO EASY TO BECOME DISCOURAGED BY SIN--BOTH OUR OWN SINS AND THE SINS OF OTHERS. WHEN WE SEE EVIL TAKING PLACE IN THE WORLD AND ALL OUR EFFORTS SEEM IN VAIN, IT IS TEMPTING TO THROW OUR HANDS UP IN THE AIR AND SAY, "FORGET IT!" AND WHEN PEOPLE

SIN AGAINST US, WELL, IT IS EASY TO FORGET THAT WE ARE SINNERS TOO. THE DEVIL, THE WORLD, AND OUR SINFUL NATURE WANT TO DECEIVE US INTO THINKING THAT WE ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS AND THAT WE SHOULD SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM OTHERS, EVEN OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS. BUT WE ARE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST AND MEMBERS OF THE SAME BODY. WE SHOULD LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF THE WRITER TO THE HEBREWS WHERE HE SAYS, "[DO] NOT [NEGLECT] TO MEET TOGETHER, AS IS THE HABIT OF SOME, BUT ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER, AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY DRAWING NEAR" (10:25).

WE MUST CONTINUE TO BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP IN THE WORD OF CHRIST AND IN BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE LAST THINGS, SUCH AS THE DEATH OF A CHRISTIAN, THE STATE OF THE CHRISTIAN BETWEEN DEATH AND JUDGEMENT DAY, THE DAY OF THE LORD, AND ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN. MANY FALSE PROPHETS ARE LEADING PEOPLE ASTRAY WITH TEACHINGS BASED ON HUMAN UNDERSTANDING OR ANCIENT HERESIES, SUCH AS "SOUL SLEEP" AND VARIOUS TYPES OF MILLENIALISM. WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO BUILD EACH OTHER UP WITH CHRIST-CENTERED TEACHING, JUST AS WE ARE DOING THROUGH OUR SERMONS AND IN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES, CONFIRMATION CLASSES, AND YOUTH AND ADULT BIBLE CLASSES.

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST, WE ARE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT AND OF THE DAY. WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS OUR GOD

AND SAVIOR AND KNOW THAT HE WILL RETURN SUDDENLY, "LIKE A THIEF" (V 2). SO, DON'T LET YOURSELF OR THOSE YOU LOVE—INDEED, DON'T LET ANYONE—BE CAUGHT UNAWARES. TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS OF THEIR SALVATION THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND ENCOURAGE THEM IN THE FAITH. AFTER ALL, IT'S *DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!* AMEN.