

“Believers: You Are Different!” 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Take Home Truth: Christians don’t live a different lifestyle to be different; they live a different lifestyle because they are different.

Paul provides three differences that distinguish believers from non-believers.

- Difference #1: BELIEVERS HAVE A DIFFERENT DESTINY.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 (English Standard Version)

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 (ESV)

- For “the day of the Lord” see: Amos 5:18; Joel 2:31; Malachi 4:5; Isaiah 34:8; 61:2; 63:4. Also called: “the day of Christ” (Philippians 1:10; 2:16), “the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6), “the day of our Lord Jesus” (2 Corinthians 1:14), or “the/that day” (1 Thessalonians 5:4; 1 Corinthians 3:13; Hebrews 10:25)
- “The day of the Lord” = the end of the world and the coming of Christ to planet earth to vindicate his people and judge the world in righteousness

He [Jesus] will come with his mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don’t know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9 (New Living Translation)

- Difference #2: BELIEVERS HAVE A DIFFERENT IDENTITY.

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5 (ESV)

. . . “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12 (New International Version)

“. . . Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles ¹⁸to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God’s people, who are set apart by faith in me.” Acts 26:17-18 (NLT)

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT)

As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9b (NLT)

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.” ³⁵“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back” Mark 13:32-33, 35a (NIV)

- Difference #3: BELIEVERS HAVE A DIFFERENT LIFESTYLE.

So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 (ESV)

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Romans 13:12-14 (NIV)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Titus 2:11-13 (NIV)

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)