

# **“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”**

## **First Thessalonians Bible Study — I Thessalonians 4:13-18 & 5:1-3**

### **Lesson #7**

**\*\*INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire section of Scripture in First Thessalonians before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word. Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version.

13-15 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning **those who have FALLEN ASLEEP**, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **God will BRING WITH HIM those who SLEEP in JESUS**. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

● **I Thessalonians 3:12-13** “And may the Lord make you increase and abound in \_\_\_\_\_ to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your \_\_\_\_\_ blameless in holiness before our \_\_\_\_\_ and Father at the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Christ \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “Those who have FALLEN ASLEEP”** – This is referring to DEATH, but we see that Jesus usually said the word “sleep” when referring to death, because to Him, death is only a brief sleep until the resurrection. Jesus said, “She is not dead, but sleeps,” and “Our friend Lazarus sleeps; but I go that I may awake him out of sleep.” There are places in Scripture where death is referred to as “sleep” but it is only referring to the **physical BODY** being asleep, and that body will be awakened at the resurrection. Notice, in Matthew 27:52, it says the **“BODIES of the SAINTS who had fallen ASLEEP were RAISED”** - it is **NOT** their bodies **AND** souls. To Jesus, who is the very **“Resurrection and the Life,”** death does seem like mere sleep, but that does not give us any grounds to teach a doctrine of “soul sleep” (see John 11:11-25). When Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead, it says **“her spirit came again,** and she rose,” which indicates that **her spirit had already left her body** (something has to leave first before it can return).

● **Luke 8:52-55** “.....but He said, ‘Weep not; she is not \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_.’ And they laughed Him to scorn, knowing that she was \_\_\_\_\_. And He put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, ‘Maid, arise.’ And her \_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_, and she arose...”

● **John 11:11-14** “These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus \_\_\_\_\_, but I go that I may \_\_\_\_\_ him up.” Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.” However, Jesus spoke of his \_\_\_\_\_, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then \_\_\_\_\_ said to them \_\_\_\_\_, “Lazarus is \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “God will BRING WITH HIM those who SLEEP in JESUS”** – The Bible teaches that a Believer in Jesus Christ goes directly to be with the Lord in heaven when he or she dies. The Apostle Paul makes it very clear that when we are **“absent from the body”** we are immediately **“present with the Lord.”** Paul says here in I Thessalonians 4:14 that the Lord will **“BRING with Him”** the dead in Christ, as their bodies are being resurrected at the Rapture. If Jesus is going to BRING the departed saints with Him from heaven, it is obvious that their souls were not sleeping in the grave with their bodies, but were there with Jesus in heaven. **The souls/spirits of those who died in Christ will COME BACK with Jesus to be reunited with their new resurrection BODIES all in an instant.**

● **II Corinthians 5:6 & 8** “Therefore we are always \_\_\_\_\_, knowing that while

we are at home \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, we are \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Verse 8) "We are \_\_\_\_\_, yes, well pleased rather to be \_\_\_\_\_  
from the \_\_\_\_\_ and to be \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_."

16-17 "For **the Lord Himself will DESCEND from HEAVEN with a shout**, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the **DEAD in CHRIST will RISE FIRST** (Christians who have died will be RESURRECTED). Then **WE who are ALIVE and remain** shall be **caught up (taken up) together WITH THEM in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus we shall ALWAYS BE WITH the Lord."

• **I Corinthians 15:51-53** "Behold, I tell you a mystery: \_\_\_\_\_ shall all be \_\_\_\_\_  
- in a moment, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of an \_\_\_\_\_, at the last \_\_\_\_\_. For the  
\_\_\_\_\_ will sound, and the \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_ incorruptible, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this  
\_\_\_\_\_ must put on \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "Caught up together WITH THEM in the CLOUDS to MEET the Lord in the AIR" - The Second Coming of Jesus Christ** will happen in two stages: **(1.) The "Rapture"** - when the Believers in Christ are CAUGHT UP to meet Jesus in the clouds. This "return" is not visible to the general public (the world), because Jesus only **comes down part way, to the clouds, for a SECRET RETURN to GATHER UP His church (Jesus is coming FOR the saints)**; and **(2.) The "Glorious Appearing"** - At the END of the seven-year Great Tribulation, at the battle of Armageddon will be His VISIBLE and triumphant return (the "sign" of His coming). The Rapture is NOT the same as His VERY VISIBLE Second Coming, when His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, and He will come with all His armies of saints (believers) and angels with Him (**Jesus is coming WITH the saints**). The Rapture and the Second Coming at the "end of the age" are TWO SEPARATE EVENTS. When it says **"The DEAD in CHRIST will RISE FIRST,"** again, there is **an order of events with this gathering of the saints at the "Rapture."** It will all happen in a split second ("the twinkling of an eye" as the saying goes), but **those who have already died will be resurrected FIRST**, and then those of us who are still alive will be **instantly CHANGED into our resurrection BODIES**, and we will ALL go up to be with the Lord until we later COME BACK with Him as His army of saints at the Battle of Armageddon.

• **Matthew 25:1-6 & 10-13** "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the \_\_\_\_\_. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_, they all slumbered and slept. And at \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ was heard: "Behold, the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_; go out to meet Him!"  
(Verses 10-13) "And while they went to buy, the Bridegroom \_\_\_\_\_, and those who were \_\_\_\_\_ went in with Him to the \_\_\_\_\_; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But He answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do \_\_\_\_\_ you.' \_\_\_\_\_ therefore, for you know neither the \_\_\_\_\_ nor the \_\_\_\_\_ in which the Son of Man is \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "Behold, the BRIDEGROOM is COMING" —** Jesus told this parable (story) to illustrate what it will be like **when He RETURNS again**. In Jewish culture, the "ten virgins" were the maids of honor waiting for the groom to appear for the wedding, and in this parable they represent those in the churches today, both real Christians and professing Christians. The "foolish virgins" represent those who are in Christian churches today, perhaps even active members, but they are "Christians" in name only - they have **never really been BORN AGAIN**. The "wise virgins" with **"oil in their lamps"** represent the TRUE CHRISTIANS who have the Holy Spirit (oil is used in the Bible to represent the Holy

Spirit). Remember, Jesus, in John 3:3,6 & 8, said that we must be BORN AGAIN, and also called it **being BORN of the SPIRIT**. When Jesus returns for the “Rapture” of the church, these unbelieving church members **will NOT be READY**, and **Jesus will only take the TRUE BELIEVERS** with Him to heaven for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (see Revelation 19:7-9).

• **Revelation 19:7-8** “Let us be glad and \_\_\_\_\_ and give Him glory, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lamb (Jesus) has come, and His \_\_\_\_\_ has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, for the fine linen is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints (the church).”

• **II Corinthians 11:2** “For I am jealous for you with \_\_\_\_\_ jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one \_\_\_\_\_, that I may \_\_\_\_\_ you as a chaste \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “At midnight a CRY was heard”** — I believe this is the same as the trumpet sound and the voice of the archangel that will occur at the moment the church is caught up to the Lord (the Rapture). The idea of midnight means that it will be **at a time when most people will not be prepared** or ready (at midnight, most people are sleeping). Jesus will come back in the clouds to receive His church at the Rapture, and it will be without warning, so be ready!

18 Therefore **COMFORT one another** with these words.

• **I Thessalonians 5:11** “Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ each \_\_\_\_\_ and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

**Definition: “COMFORT one another”** – The words that should bring comfort to us as Believers in Jesus are the words that tell us that He will take us out of this world before the wrath of God is poured out upon the wicked, ungodly non-believers. We have examples in the Old Testament, also: Noah and his family being **TAKEN OUT and into the ark** before the flood came, and Lot and his family being **TAKEN OUT of Sodom** before the fire rained down from heaven upon the wicked people of Sodom.

## Chapter 5

1-3 But **concerning the TIMES and the SEASONS**, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that **the DAY of the LORD so comes as a THIEF in the NIGHT**. For **when they say, “PEACE and SAFETY!”** then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

**Definition: “The TIMES and the SEASONS”** – We **CAN** know the general time or “season” of when Christ will return, we just don’t know the exact day or hour.

• **Matthew 24:36** “But of that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ no one \_\_\_\_\_, no, \_\_\_\_\_ even the angels of heaven, but My \_\_\_\_\_ only.”

• **Matthew 24:43-44** “But know this, that if the master of the house had \_\_\_\_\_ what \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ would come, he would have \_\_\_\_\_ and not allowed his house to be \_\_\_\_\_ into. Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ also be \_\_\_\_\_, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ at an \_\_\_\_\_ when you do \_\_\_\_\_ expect Him.”

**Definition: “The DAY of the LORD so comes as a THIEF in the NIGHT”** – The Bible talks about “The Last Days”, and this refers to the time **just BEFORE the RETURN of Jesus Christ** to the earth. Lawlessness and wickedness will be one of the “signs” of His soon return, and the condition of the

human race **just before Jesus returns** will be as **WICKED and EVIL** as it was in **Noah's days**, before God destroyed the earth with the Flood. We, as Christians, can discern **the times we live in as being "The Last Days" and close to the return of Jesus**, but even so, no one knows the exact day or hour. When Jesus says He is "coming as a thief" it refers to **the QUICKNESS and UNEXPECTEDNESS of His return**, not anything evil, or that He's going to commit a crime.

• **Revelation 3:3** "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore if you will not \_\_\_\_\_, I will \_\_\_\_\_ upon you as a \_\_\_\_\_, and you will \_\_\_\_\_ know what \_\_\_\_\_ I will \_\_\_\_\_ upon you."

• **I Thessalonians 5:2** "For you yourselves \_\_\_\_\_ perfectly that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ so comes as a \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_."

• **Revelation 16:15** "Behold, I am \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed is he who \_\_\_\_\_, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "When they say, 'PEACE and SAFETY!'"** – When the Anti-Christ first comes into power, he will bring **a temporary peace in the world**, and people will say that they now have **"PEACE and SAFETY."** The man of sin (another name for the Anti-Christ) will only be able to keep this peace for a **SHORT TIME**, and then God's wrath will be poured out upon the evil people in this world. As Paul says here, **the "Man of Sin" (the Anti-Christ) will NOT be REVEALED in the world until God has taken us all out of the way**, because the Holy Spirit is the one who restrains the evil and wickedness in the world, and He will leave this world when we, the Believers are taken out in the Rapture.

• **II Thessalonians 2:1-10** "Now, brethren, concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Chri8 and our \_\_\_\_\_ together to \_\_\_\_\_, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind (alarmed) or \_\_\_\_\_, either by a spirit or by a word or by a letter, as if from us, as though the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ come unless the \_\_\_\_\_ away comes first, and the man of sin (the Anti-Christ) is revealed, the son of perdition (hell), who opposes and exalts \_\_\_\_\_ above all that is called God or that is worshiped..... And now you know \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_; only He who now \_\_\_\_\_ will do so until \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ with the breath of His mouth and \_\_\_\_\_ with the brightness of His \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "He who NOW RESTRAINS will do so until HE is TAKEN OUT of the way"** – Most Bible teachers believe the **"He who restrains" is the Holy Spirit**, living within the collective Believers in Jesus Christ throughout the world ("the Church"). When will "He" be "taken out of the way"? The Holy Spirit will be removed from the earth **when The Church is raptured** at the trumpet call of God, **when Jesus comes in the clouds to "take away" His Church**. As long as Believers in Christ are here on this earth, **we serve as "salt and light" ("Salt of the earth" - salt purifies and preserves, Matthew 5:13 - "Light of the world" - Matt. 5:14-16) to hold back the corruption and rottenness of sin.** **When we are removed**, that restraint to the world's wickedness will no longer be there, and the ungodly will reach their full potential of wickedness, violence, and everything in opposition to God's holiness. **The world already hates us Christians, and when we are no longer here to hold back their wickedness**, their sin will erupt to a level that we can only imagine now.