

## 1 & 2 Thessalonians



“For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.”

1 Thessalonians 5:5

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 5:5-11

**Meditation:** Do you remember the 90s? If you recall the wave of contemporary Christian music that hit the scenes that decade, you couldn't miss one of the most well known Christian bands, DC Talk, or one of their most well known songs, "In the Light." One of the most well-known segments of this song goes, "I want to be in the Light as you are in the light, I want to shine like the stars in the heavens." Did you know how often this idea comes up in Scripture? Its hard to read through many of the letters of the New Testament without finding the idea of "the Light."

In the Gospel of John, Jesus describes himself as the Light of the World (8:12, 9:5). The idea of light is tied to the idea of hope, of God shining his light into the darkness when all that we knew was sin. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Paul writes of unbelievers seeing the light of the Gospel. Continuing on, verse 6 says, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of JesuIn a different set of letters, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Paul teaches what it means to live in light, as children of the Light. The Thessalonians were concerned about the second coming of Jesus. Had their deceased family members, friends, and church members missed their chance due to their passing? When was the second coming going to happen anyway? Some even wondered, did it already happen and we missed it? In answering these questions, Paul has specific items to say regarding the end times, but there are also nitty-gritty details of the end times that he remains silent on. In response to each, he reminds them that Christ's coming should be an encouragement to them, not a source of anxiety, since they are children of the Light. Rather than give them specific details of the end times events, he instead encourages them to live as Children of the Light and teaches them about what it means to live like this.

Have you ever experienced complete darkness? In the modern era of electric lighting, we rarely experience total darkness. The Thessalonians would have been much more familiar with this. Today, one of the few ways to experience total darkness would be

underground in caves. Here, it is so dark that even after your eyes adjust to your surroundings, you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. However, when light hits darkness, which will win every time? This isn't even a competition, darkness cannot stand against light. In using this metaphor, Paul gives us hope knowing that the hope we have in Christ is one that will bring ultimate victory.

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. Am I a child of the Light?
2. How has being a child of the Light affected the way that I interact with and care for those around me?
3. What are the dark areas or shadows of my life that the light has yet to shine upon it?
4. Am I a light to those still living in darkness?

**Next Steps:**

Join Buffalo Prairie Presbyterian Church as we discover 1 & 2 Thessalonians and see what God teaches us, through Paul, about being Children of the Light, Children of the Day.

**Key Verses:**

"For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve he 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 Thessalonians 1:9-10

"For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness." 1 Thessalonians 5:5

"But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits[d] to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth." 2 Thessalonians 2:13