

Sermon Handout
Security in the Resurrection
I Thessalonians 5:1-11

- I.** St. Paul’s approach to answering questions
- a. “You already know . . . but . . .” 4:2
 - b. “I don’t need to teach you . . . but maintain your love” 4:9
 - c. “I do want to teach you about . . . so . . .” 4:13
 - d. “I don’t need to tell you . . . but . . .” 5:1
- II.** The specific question about “times and seasons”
Related, but not the same as the question of 4:13-18
- a. What are “times and seasons?” v.1
 - i. Titus 1:2-3 – times eternal vs. announcement of the gospel
 - ii. Dan 9:27 – clearly a reference to the temple destruction
 - b. Claims of “peace and safety” v. 3
 - i. Ezek 13:10-16 – there is no defense against God’s judgment
 - ii. Matt 24:23-27 – don’t listen to false prophets
 - c. The “Day of the Lord” v. 2 (*cf.* “that day” in v. 4)
 - i. Always associated with judgment (*contra* 3:13; 4:15)
 - ii. Mt 24:43; Lk 12:39; Rev 3:3; 16:15-17; II Pet 3:10
 - iii. Amos 5:16-20; Isa 2:12-17; Zeph 1:7-11; Mal 3:2-5; 4:1
- III.** What does Paul tell the church to do about all this? vv. 4-11
- a. Do not think we will be caught off guard vv. 4-7
 - It will be sudden, but those awake will not be surprised.
 - b. Wear key Christian qualities as armor v. 8 (Is 59:17; Eph 6:14-17)
faith that works, love that labors, hope that endures (see 1:3)
 - c. Remember Jesus’ death & resurrection vv. 9-10
 - d. Comfort each other and instruct one another in wakefulness v. 11a
 - e. Continue the path you have been following v. 11b