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**LEADERSHIP DURING DIFFICULT DAYS**  
**CONTRAST OF CHARACTER (v.5-6) PT. 2**  
**1THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

*Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; <sup>5</sup> for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; <sup>6</sup> so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.*

**CONTRAST OF CHARACTER:** Sons of light/day –  
vs– of night/darkness

As children of Light / Day people, we must act in accordance with our Father, in whom there is no darkness at all.

**1 John 1:5-7** This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; <sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Alert and Sober characterizes the children of God; those who are "sons of day and sons of light".

**Let us be Alert:** Means to arise, arouse, rouse from sleep. In the moral and religious sphere and in this context was used to call, to be quick to perceive and act in a constant state of readiness and vigilance.

**Sober:** Freedom from the influence of intoxicants. Spiritually, to be sober-minded means to live with your eyes open and with a calm, steady state of mind that evaluates things correctly. A state of calmness and collective emotions.

**2 Timothy 4:5** But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

**1 Peter 1:13** Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 4:7** The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Alertness and sobriety carries the idea of vigilance and cautiousness. Living expectantly as watchful children for their Father's imminent return.

The Contrast:

**OTHERS (v.6)**

**Of Night:** Figuratively describes the state of alienation of all men who are not believers. "Of night" is used of the period of the absence of light, Gen 1:5; Mt 2:14, the period of man's alienation from God, Rom 13:12 (used this same way in the present verse), a period during which prophecy is silent, Micah 3:6, and death, John 9:4.<sup>1</sup>

In this context using the picture of physical sleep to illustrate those who are spiritually asleep, careless and unconcerned in their sin and unaware of the grave danger they are in should they die. Thus, indifference to God characterizes man in his unregenerate state. Shameless idleness and debauchery.

***Of Darkness:*** Absent of light. Thus absent of God. For in Him there is no darkness at all. Spiritually this person has not the light of God and is spiritually separated from Him. Their present life is utter emptiness and purposelessness.

**Keathley** explains that;

**Darkness** continues the figure of night mentioned in 1Thessalonians 5:2 and calls to mind the darkness versus light analogy of the Bible. **Darkness** stands for the realms of:

1. Error and ignorance **versus** truth and understanding—this is the intellectual aspect of the darkness/light analogy of Scripture. In other words, the world, because of its darkened understanding, is ignorant of this impending doom that even today stands imminently ready to strike.
2. Blindness **versus** sight—the operational element of this analogy. The world is spiritually blind, it cannot see the truth of Scripture and has believed the delusions of Satan (2Th 2:9, 10, 11, 12).
3. Wickedness or immoral living **versus** righteousness—the moral element of this analogy.

In spiritual terms, absence of light by default pictures that which is in evil and sin. The world is divided into night people and day people, a division which is forever (unless the night person repents and believes in Jesus). Fittingly, hell is the abode of night people and is manifest by eternal darkness. In stark contrast, heaven is the eternal light, the abode of day people. John describes heaven as a place where<sup>ii</sup>

**Revelation 22:5** there shall no longer be any **night**; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.

**Drunkenness means to be** intoxicated to the point of a drunken stupor. They carouse in the night because their innate nature is those who are night people, people of darkness. Such behavior is natural and expected.

The tragedy is when **day people** walk in the darkness and forfeit their assurance of salvation (they don't lose salvation but they do often lose the confidence that they are saved) and they become fearful of God's judgment. John speaks to this fearfulness of judgment, exhorting believers to avoid this condition.

**1 John 2:28** And now, little children (believers), abide (continually live at home) in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence (bold speech) and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

Christians must pursue the qualities Peter exhorts "light/day" people earnestly seek.

**2 Peter 1:5-7** Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge,<sup>6</sup> and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness,<sup>7</sup> and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

The Children of God must see that his life is useful and fruitful; then he will not stumble into doubt, despair, fear, or questioning, but enjoy assurance that salvation is sure and secure. What a life, useful and fruitful—sure and secure!

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your spiritual conditions has eternal consequences and it would be my delight to minister to you in any way.

<sup>1</sup> [http://preceptaustin.org/1thessalonians\\_54-5.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/1thessalonians_54-5.htm)

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.