

BE ALERT AND SOBER MINDED!

Our lesson title was used twice in our lesson text (1 Thess.5:6 and vs. 8) - “let us be alert and sober.”

Once again, Paul’s use of the Greek language, Categorical Bible Doctrine, which is important to the Christian way of life and the Faith Cycle (Rom.10:17; 2 Cor.5:7).

Our lesson text consists of three Greek sentences (1 Thess.5:5b-11).

NOTE: You cannot see it in the NASB except in (1 Thess.5:5) (note there is a period in the middle of vs.5).

This resulted in:

- 5:5b-6 First Greek sentence
- 5:7-10 Second Greek sentence
- 5:11 Third Greek sentence.

Our lesson will study seven aspects of Being Alert and Sober-Minded

1. The Greek language is important to our first Greek sentence and our lesson title, to be “Be Alert and Sober-Minded’ (1 Thess.5:5b-6).

For example (1 Thess.5:6 begins with two inferential particles “ara oun” (**so then**) in (1 Thess.5:6). These two Greek particles were used to establish our doctrine of “Be Alert and Sober-Minded.”

Greek particles are used to express hidden meanings of the writer’s use of metaphors and illustrations. They are used to give clarity to spiritual truths and doctrinal meaning to the passage (Manual of Grammar of Greek NT by Dana and Mantey/ pg.258).

2. Paul used “so then” in (1 Thess.5:6) to make seven strong doctrinal points throughout the rest of our lesson text (1 Thess.5:1-11) the greater context.

Doctrinal point (1): “For you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are NOT (sons) of **night nor** (sons) of **darkness**; **SO THEN** let us not sleep as others do but let us be alert and sober.” (1 Thess.5:5)

(1 John 1:5) “God is Light and **in Him** there is no darkness at all. (John 1:1-5)

(John 8:12) “I am the Light of the world; he who follows **Me** will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of life.” (2 Cor.5:17-18)

Doctrinal point (2): “For you were **formerly darkness** (Adam’s Original Sin) One of 13 judicial charges held against us,

“**but now** (2 Cor.4:4-6) **you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.**” (Eph.5:8; Acts 26:18; John 3:19; 2 Cor.4:4)

3. Paul’s use of six subjunctives to establish volitional responsibility to the doctrinal points.

- He used three hortatory (**let us**) [p. subj] in (1 Thess.5:5b-8).
- He used three unique 3rd Class Condition ‘Ifs’ {maybe} (cc subj). (**whether**) (eite/ 3cc)

- Two (pres.subj) and one (aorist.subj) (1 Thess.5:10) in (1 Thess.5:9-11).
- The three hortatory subjunctives (**let us**) reflect importance of man's volition to the directive will of God declared in Categorical Bible Doctrine (1 Thess.5:5b-8).

(1 Thess.5:6a) "Let us NOT **sleep** (a prohibitive) "**as** (hos/ comparative particle) **others** (hoi loipos) [carnal believers living like unbelievers] (1 Cor.2:14-3:3) (sarkikos vs psuckikos)"

Doctrinal point (3): The carnal believer must awaken from the sleep of carnal apathy like unbelievers because the "night is almost gone" (Rom.13:11-14) (awaken) [choices 1 Thess.5:7], i.e. The Ark is about to sail and God's judgment of world is about to happen (2 Pet.2:5).

4. **Doctrinal point (4):** It is important for the sons of the Light and the Day to Be alert and Sober-Minded like a sentry on guard duty in wartime - "Having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation." (1 Thess.5:8)

The Angelic Conflict of (Eph.6:10-17; 1 Cor.13:13; Gal.5:5-6; 1 Thess.1:3; 1 Tim.6:12).

- "Let us be alert and (kai/ adjunctive) (let us be) sober (1 Thess.5:6b)."
- "Let us be sober (nepho) (1 Thess.5:8a)."

5. In (1 Thess.5:9-10), Paul declares that confident expectation of the believer's salvation is established by faith in God's grace work of salvation for all time and eternity (1 Cor15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-10; 1 Thess.6:9-10).

(1 Thess.5:9-10; "For God has NOT destined (tithemi/ a.m.ind.3ps) us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that **whether** (eite/ 3cc) we are **awake** (gregoreo/ p.a.subj.1pl) nor (eite/ **whether**) **asleep** (katheduo/ p.a.subj.1pl), **we will live** (zao/ a.a.subj.1pl) **together with Him.**" (1 Tim.2:4-6).

Doctrinal point (5): God did NOT destine the believer or the unbeliever to experience God's wrath, but to obtain grace salvation (Adam's Original Sin) (2 Pet.3:9; Rom.5:12-21; John 3:16-19, 36).

6. In (1 Thess 5:10), we have our final three subjunctives attached to "**whether** (3rd Class Condition)."Who died for us, so that **whether** we are awake or (whether) asleep, we will live (zao/ a.a.subj.1pl) together with Him." (1 Thess.5:10; 4:17)

Doctrinal point (6): At the Rapture, all CABs whether carnal or spiritual will be caught up together with the Lord because grace salvation (1 Thess.4:13-18; 5:1-11; 1 Cor.15:50-58).

7. In (1 Thess.5:11), Paul makes his final comments on the importance of Being Alert and Sober-Minded with two imperatives:

"Therefore (dio/ because of this) **encourage** (parakaleo/ **p.a.impv.2pl**) one another, and (kai/ adjunctive) **build up** (oiodomeo/ **p.a.impv.2pl**) one another, just as you also are doing."

Doctrinal point (7): Church Age Believers are commanded to encourage and to teach others in their spiritual growth regarding being doctrinally Alert and Sober-minded in their Christian Walk, regarding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Rapture).