

The Christian Arsenal

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**THE TIME IS NEAR FOR THE THIEF IN THE NIGHT
THE TIME IS NEAR**

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Part 4 of 7

INTRO:

1. Illustration of a man whose automobile is stolen.
2. We are living between the crucifixion and the coronation of Jesus Christ

FOUR TRUTHS IN THIS PASSAGE THAT TELL US WE NEED TO BE READY

1. WE CAN EXPECT A SURPRISING DAY (v. 1,2)

Paul is saying two things: The certainty of Christ's coming
The uncertainty of Christ's coming

Acts 1:6-8
2 Peter 3:8-10

The raging waters of God's wrath are pounding against the dam of His mercy.

2. WE CAN ESCAPE A SUDDEN DESTRUCTION (v. 3,4) THE DAY OF THE LORD

Scriptures that talk about the Day of the Lord
Joel 2:1,2
Jeremiah 30:7
Daniel 12:1
Matthew 24:21
Revelation 6:15-17

THIS DAY WILL BE A:

1. Solemn Day
The antichrist that will rule at this time will make Hitler seem like a Boy Scout.
2. Sudden Day
I Thess. 5:3
Matthew 24:36-39
3. Sure Day
I Thess. 5:3b "...as labor pains upon a pregnant woman..."

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3. WE MUST ENDURE A SURROUNDING DARKNESS (v. 4-8)

The world is already in a moral darkness.

The world is already in a spiritual darkness.

The world is already in a social darkness.

The world is already in a political darkness.

THREE THINGS WE NEED TO DO AS A CHILD OF GOD

1. We should be aware and wise up (v. 5)

2. We should be awake and get up (v. 6,7)

This is not a theory to be discussed but a truth to be lived.

3. We should be alert and dress up (v. 8)

Two things we need to be wearing:

1. Get your heart right – “*breastplate of faith and love*”

We need to put our hearts where God put our sin and that is on the Lord Jesus.

2. Get your head right - “*put on the helmet of the hope of*

salvation”

The 2nd Coming of Jesus is called the Blessed Hope (Titus

2:13)

4. WE WILL EXPERIENCE A SURE DELIVERANCE (v. 9-11)

Three Reasons We Can Expect a Sure Deliverance:

1. Explanation (v. 9) “*For God has not appointed us to wrath*”

I Thess 1:9-10

TWO CLASSIC EXAMPLES OF DELIVERANCE – Luke 17:26-30

1. Noah – The flood didn’t come until Noah was safely in the ark.

2. Lot – Before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah He told Lot

to leave

Ezekiel 16:49

2. Expectation (v. 10)

I Thess. 4:17

I John 1:18

3. Edification (v. 11)

Do we say “Even so Come Great Tribulation” – NO

We say “Even so Come Lord Jesus!”

Just as God said, “Noah get in the ark” and “Lot get out of the city,” He is going to say, “Church come up hither.”