THE READY CHURCH IS AN EXPECTANT CHURCH

- We Are Going To Meet Him In The Air
- We Will Be With The Lord Forever
- This Is Our Hope
I Thessalonians 5:1-5 (NIV)  
(1) Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, (2) for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (3) While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. (4) But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. (5) You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.
1 Thessalonians 5:6-11 (NIV) (6) So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. (7) For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. (8) But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. (9) For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (10) He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. (11) Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
EXACT TIMES AND DATES ARE NOT NECESSARY

- (Mat 25:13 NIV) "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.
- The Day OfThe Lord Is The Main Event – The Return Of Christ
- “The Day Of The Lord Is The Culmination Of God’s Fury In A Final Outpouring That Consumes Those Who Have Not Put Their Faith In Christ.”
THE READY CHURCH: AN ENCOURAGED CHURCH

THE DAY OF THE LORD: LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

- A CLEAR SIGN: Calls For Peace And Safety (Security)
- There Will Be Sudden Destruction
- It Will Be Like Labor Pains On Pregnant Woman
- There Will Be No Escape
(1 Th 5:2-3 NIV) for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (3) While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

- Those Who Are **Spiritually Asleep**
- Those Who Are In **Spiritual Darkness**
- Those Who Are **Not Ready Spiritually**
- Those Living Their Lives **Without Self-Control**
THE READY CHURCH:
AN ENCOURAGED CHURCH

HOW CAN WE BE READY?

What True Believers Are Not Doing Right Now:

- We Are Not In Darkness
- We Are Not Surprised Like A Thief
- We Are Not Of The Night
- We Are Not Asleep
- We Are Not Drunk
IN DARKNESS A THIEF CAN SNEAK UP

- **We Are Not To Be Asleep**
- **When We Sleep We Lose Consciousness** — Focus — **Comprehension Of All That Is Going On**
- **We Cant Be Ready If We Asleep**
(Matt 24:44) “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

It Is Time For God’s People To Wake Up

There Is A Time To Sleep -- But It Is Not When The Thief Is At Our Door
THE READY CHURCH:
AN ENCOURAGED CHURCH

- 1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NIV) (8) But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

WE BELONG TO THE DAY

- We Don’t Live In Darkness – We Come Into The Light
- We Don’t Silence The Alarm & Roll Over – We Check It Out
- We Don’t Do Things To Dull Our Senses – We Stay Alert
I Peter 1:3-5 (NKJV) (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

There Is An Incorruptible Inheritance And A Salvation (Deliverance / Rescue) Revealed In The End Times
I Peter 1:13-16 (NKJV) (13) Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (14) as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; (15) but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

The Lord Is Coming Soon -- God’s People Should Be Holy

Gird Up The Loins Of Your Mind -- Be Sober And Hopeful
It’s Time For Action And Progress:

- Move Out Quickly
- Get Serious
- Get Your Mind Ready
- Don’t Be Encumbered
THE READY CHURCH:  
AN ENCOURAGED CHURCH

- **Self Controlled** = Calm – Steady – Controlled -- To Weigh Matters -- To Be Sober
- We Shouldn’t Get “Carried Away” In Our Thinking Or Living
- We Must Avoid Any And All Drunkenness, Addictions, Or Attitudes That Can Take Control Of Our Minds And Bodies Because Those Things Dull Our Readiness
THE ACTIONS WE NEED TO ACCOMPLISH

(1 Th 5:8 NIV) (8) But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.
THE READY CHURCH:
AN ENCOURAGED CHURCH

- PUT ON FAITH – LOVE AS A BREASTPLATE
  - Faith’s Actions Will Thrust Us Forward
  - Faith Is The Breastplate That Keeps The Heart Safe

- WE PUT ON HOPE OF RESCUE (SALVATION) AS A HELMET
  - Salvation Is Victory
  - Salvation Is Deliverance
  - Salvation Is Rescue From The Coming Wrath
For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation (rescue) through our Lord Jesus Christ,

- We Are People Of Hope
- We Have The Promises Of God
- We Have God Himself
GOD’S APPOINTMENT IS NOT WRATH BUT RESCUE (SALVATION)

- (1 Th. 1:10)… Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.
- God Does Not Treat The Righteous And The Wicked The Same Way
- He Separates Them… And Gives Them Their Just Sentence Or Reward
THE READY CHURCH:
AN ENCOURAGED CHURCH

WETHER WE ARE ALIVE OR DEAD IN CHRIST – WE LIVE WITH HIM

- 1 Thessalonians 5:10 (NKJV) (10) who (CHRIST) died for us, that whether we wake (ALIVE) or sleep (DEAD IN CHRIST), we should live together with Him.

- We Can’t Lose!

- Jesus Christ Has A Great Future In Mind For Us!
ENCOURAGE AND BUILD EACH OTHER UP

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV) (11) Therefore encourage (Comfort & Exhort) (Invite, Implore, Pray) one another and build (A Good House Builder) each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
(Luke 21:36 NIV) Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Why Would Jesus Ask Us To Watch And Pray That We Might Be Able To Escape If He Has No Rescue Plan Available?
The Ready Church: An Encouraged Church

- The Rapture Is Jesus Coming For His Readied Bride
- Jesus: “Get Ready My Church -- I Am Coming Soon.”
- (1 Th 1:10 NIV) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.
- (1 Th 5:9 NIV) For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(Rev 3:10 NIV) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

(2 Pet 2:9 NIV) if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment
God’s Soon Coming Rescue Plan Is For:

- Those Who Live In Jesus
- Those Who Are Busy Doing His Work
- Those Who Are Ready For His Coming
- The Lord Will Catch Them Away In The Rapture Before The Great Outpouring Of God’s Wrath
THE READY CHURCH:
AN ENcouraged CHURCH

Be Prepared He’s Coming As A Thief In The Night

- Get Your Spiritual House In Order
- Make Sure That All Things Are Ready
- Check Your Spiritual Temperature
- Throw Off The Sin That Entangles
- There Is Hope For You
- Put On Faith – Love --- Hope Of Rescue (Salvation)