

# Future Hope

## Church in View of Christ's Coming

---

WEEK 5

### WARM-UP

- Do you consider yourself to be patient? Recall an instance explaining this.
- Tell us about one person you know who doesn't shy away from confrontation. Why do you think he or she is confident in speaking honestly or directly?
- If you were to leave your loved ones a message, how do you think you would go about it? What would you say?

**WORD** *<sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. . . . <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. . . . <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:5, 8, 11**

One of the primary themes of 1 Thessalonians is Christ's second coming. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy address the concerns and questions of the Thessalonian believers directly (1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:10). As believers, Christ's glorious return and the resurrection of the dead are truths we hold on to with faith and hope. These truths should affect how we live every day. While we don't know when these will specifically happen, the letter reminds us of who we are in Christ and the disposition we must take: We are to wait patiently and be sober-minded, continually building one another up in the faith. In this lesson, we will look at some of the final instructions these leaders gave to the church in Thessalonica.

## 1 | Encourage one another.

*<sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. <sup>12</sup>We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, <sup>13</sup>and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.* **1 THESSALONIANS 5:11-13**

Because we face different challenges and can get frustrated, disappointed, or even tempted to quit, we cannot live in isolation. We need one another and the encouragement that comes in community. To encourage is to give a person the courage, strength, and inspiration to persevere. Share about a person who encourages you to stand fast in your faith. What impact has it made on you?

---

---

## 2 | Admonish one another.

*And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.* **1 THESSALONIANS 5:14**

Believers don't just share the responsibility of encouraging one another. We are also to admonish one another—to warn, urge, and correct. In this case, Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy were reiterating their charge in 1 Thessalonians 4:11–12 for the believers not to be idle. Though admonishing others is not easy, we can do so when we speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). What do you think will happen if we speak truth with no love, or speak with love but no truth? Recall a time when someone admonished you in a way that led you closer to God.

---

---

### 3 | Pray for one another.

*<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . <sup>25</sup>Brothers, pray for us.*

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:23, 25**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy encouraged the church to *pray without ceasing* (1 Thessalonians 5:17), prayed for the Thessalonians, and asked the believers to pray for them as well. Lifting up our concerns to God, giving Him our burdens, and trusting Him to take care of those we love shows that we are relying on God, not ourselves. What was the final prayer of Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy for the church (1 Thessalonians 5:23)? Following this example, how can we pray for one another?

.....

.....

### APPLICATION

- Jesus Christ will return gloriously one day for His Church. How should this truth affect the way you live?
- Why is it important for believers to admonish one another? In what way is this difficult for you, and how can you apply this in your life today?
- Think of a family member or friend who could use encouragement and prayer. What can you do for him or her this week?

