



What Are We Waiting For? – 1 Thessalonians Staying Awake As The Light Comes

Date: Sunday 16th October

Speaker: Ruth Page (City Centre Site), Pete Spafford (South Site)

Key Verses: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-13

Talk Summary:

Paul's letter to the Thessalonian's is answering their question about the return of Jesus.

The Day of the Lord is part of the story of the Bible, which has moved from Creation to the Fall, to Redemption, through to Restoration where God will deal with evil and make all things new. The Day of the Lord is good news, seen through the cross of Jesus as that is where God dealt with the judgement for sin and defeated evil.

How we wait for the return of Jesus matters. We need to be alert, ready and prepared. Paul encourages the early church to do this by being clothed in faith, hope and love. So too today, we need to take light into to the darkness so that the many people who don't yet know Jesus have a chance to hear his good news. We need to encourage each other, by being filled with the Holy Spirit and by praying for each other and those who don't know Jesus yet.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- On a scale of 1-10, how actively would you say you are waiting with anticipation for Jesus to return? Why does this matter?
- Where are the areas of darkness where you feel moved to take God's light with faith, hope and love?
- When was the last time you offered to pray for someone outside church? What happened? And if you've never done that yet, what steps could you take to help you begin to do that?

Witness - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
 - Upcoming Events (*go to bvc.so/whats-on for details*)
 - Corporate Prayer Meeting - 23.10.22
 - Rooted - 24.10.22