

B.O.S.S. Study Guide
“The Coming Ages”
Week of Feb. 22, 2010

Not Caught Off Guard By The End Times

In I Thessalonians 5:4-8 Paul explains the “Blessed Hope” of all believers, the anticipation of Jesus’ return for His church, he then spends several verses warning believers about their conduct in the mean time.

Read together 5:4-8

Many believe Paul is using the metaphor of a soldier on century duty - having the responsibility of being watchful throughout the night hours. For some, their alertness and awareness of the situation was impaired by drunkenness while on duty. However, as sons of the light or the day we are to remain sober, “self-controlled.” Clearly, Paul’s main point is the necessity of God’s people to have spiritual alertness so as not to be found surprised by the events leading to the Lord’s return.

Let’s think about spiritual alertness and sobriety and compare those thoughts with spiritual drunkenness and sleeping on duty.

What things cause believers spiritual dullness of senses - What pursuits - passions - addictions - behaviors - relationships?

What are things that cause spiritual drunkenness? Think about drunkenness - it controls every part of us - it slows our reactions - it lowers many peoples inhibitions, they do or say things they might not normally say. **So, what things in this world control peoples behavior, attitudes etc?**

In Ephesians 5:18 Paul commands us not to be under the control of alcohol - but instead to be controlled, in every cell of your being, by the Spirit of God. So, is it possible that anything in our life not under the control of the Spirit, controls us and we are in other words, “drunken” on it.

Read Galatians 5:19-21 and discover what things control people’s lives - list them:

Read Galatians 5:22-24 - list the characteristics of one controlled by the Spirit of God

What would be the difference between a believer who is alert and one who is not?

I think Paul takes this spiritual idea and puts it into a very practical nutshell. In Colossians 3:1-11 there are 4 things we are to do. **What are they?**

1) Vs. 1,2 Set...

How do you do that?

2) Vs. 5 Put...

How do you do that?

3) Vs. 8 – Rid yourself...

How do you do that?

4) Vs. 10 - Put on...

How do you do that?

In light of our understanding of this world and God's plans for all things this is what it means to live as "sons of the light" and "sons of the day".

Prayer and Praise