

LESSON 6
GET READY; GET SET . . .
1 THESSALONIANS 4:13—5:11



1 How did you prepare for this lesson or series of lessons?

2 How do you get ready for a vacation?



Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13—5:11, the chart “The Events of Christ’s Return,” and the following notes:

☐ 4:13ff ☐ 5:1 ☐ 5:1–3 ☐ 5:2

3 Why did the Thessalonians want to know when Christ would return (4:13–18)?

4 When will Christ return (5:1–3)?

5 How can Christians get ready for Christ's return (5:6–11)?

The Thessalonian Christians were anxious for Christ's return. They thought that Christ was going to come back while they were all still alive. They also thought that those who had already died would not rise from the dead. When some of them did die and Christ had not returned, they became confused and anxious. Paul reassured them that *all* Christians who die will rise from their graves. And he stressed that no one knows "when all this will happen" (5:1). The time of Christ's second coming will surprise everyone, so we should take pains to be ready. Christians of nearly every generation have speculated about when Christ will come again. But none of us know *when*. We know only that he will return. What matters is that we be ready for Christ at any moment.



6 How or why do arguments about the time of Christ's coming distract us from getting ready?

7 Why do some Christians believe others' speculation about the exact timing of Christ's return?

8 What is the best response to predictions about Christ's return?

9 How can Christians help unbelievers get ready for Christ's return?



10 Knowing that Christ will return someday, how can you use your time and resources more wisely?

11 What can you do to be ready for Christ to return?

12 How can Christians encourage one another with the certainty of Christ's second coming?



13 What changes in yourself—your habits, lifestyle, or prayer life—would make you more ready for Christ's return than you are now?

A How would you paraphrase the command “Stay alert and be sober” (5:6)? In what contexts is it important for a Christian to be alert and sober? In what areas of your life do you exhibit these qualities, and in what areas do you need to develop them?

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B Why were the Thessalonian Christians worried about their dead loved ones (4:13–18)? How did Paul encourage them? Whom can you encourage with this news?

C Why will unbelievers be surprised when Christ returns (5:2)? Why will Christians be able to respond differently (5:4)? How can you share your hope in Christ with your friends?