

(Bible used = NIV 1984 translation)

**Way in:** Cast your minds back to examination time at school. You knew what the subject was going to be, and although you didn't know exactly what questions would be asked, you knew that to pass would require preparation. Do you have examples of good preparation producing good results, or lack of preparation producing the opposite?

**Read 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11**

**Question 1** From verses 1 and 2, what is the main point Paul is making about the timing of Christ's return?

- a. Can you think of reasons why God does not tell us precisely the date of Jesus' return?

**Question 2.** Verse 3 'destruction will come on them suddenly...they will not escape'.

- a. who is Paul identifying as 'them'?
- b. What importance and relevance do you attach to understanding who 'they' are?
- c. Having identified them, what action, if any, does this require of you?

**Question 3.** Verse 4ff. How helpful is the use of darkness and light, of day and night, to emphasis the point Paul is making?

- a. What are the dangers associated with living in darkness?
- b. What instructions does Paul give for living in the light?

**Question 4** Our defensive weapons are faith, love and hope according to Paul.

- a. What are some practical ways in which these virtues can defend us?

**Question 5.** The purpose of this letter to the Thessalonians is clearly to give encouragement to this new church. This week's study, and the past two weeks, have been about Jesus second coming, of what happens to those who have died in faith, and those Christians alive at that time; and of judgement.

- a. Are you encouraged by what has been talked through?
- b. Do you have any unanswered concerns?