

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Common English Bible

¹We don't need to write to you about the timing and dates, brothers and sisters. ²You know very well that the day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. ³When they are saying, "There is peace and security," at that time sudden destruction will attack them, like labor pains start with a pregnant woman, and they definitely won't escape. ⁴But you aren't in darkness, brothers and sisters, so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief. ⁵All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to night or darkness. ⁶So then, let's not sleep like the others, but let's stay awake and stay sober. ⁷People who sleep sleep at night, and people who get drunk get drunk at night. ⁸Since we belong to the day, let's stay sober, wearing faithfulness and love as a piece of armor that protects our body and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹God didn't intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. ¹¹So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-12

The Common English Bible

¹Lord, you have been our help, generation after generation.

²Before the mountains were born, before you birthed the earth and the inhabited world - from forever in the past to forever in the future, you are God.

³You return people to dust, saying, "Go back, humans,"

⁴because in your perspective a thousand years are like yesterday past, like a short period during the night watch.

⁵You sweep humans away like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning. ⁶True, in the morning it thrives, renewed, but come evening it withers, all dried up.

⁷Yes, we are wasting away because of your wrath; we are paralyzed with fear on account of your rage.

⁸You put our sins right in front of you, set our hidden faults in the light from your face.

⁹Yes, all our days slip away because of your fury; we finish up our years with a whimper. ¹⁰We live at best to be seventy years old, maybe eighty, if we're strong. But their duration brings hard work and trouble because they go by so quickly. And then we fly off.

¹¹Who can comprehend the power of your anger? The honor that is due you corresponds to your wrath. ¹²Teach us to number our days so we can have a wise heart.

Matthew 25:14-30

The Common English Bible

¹⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey. ¹⁶“After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. ¹⁸But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money. ¹⁹“Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’ ²¹“His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’ ²²“The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’ ²³“His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’ ²⁴“Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. ²⁵So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’ ²⁶“His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I

haven’t spread seed? ²⁷In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. ²⁸Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. ²⁹Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. ³⁰Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.’ “People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.