

Key Passage Study

1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10

Key Passage

*(Commit passage to memory & write out things you learn from the passage, not taking anything else into account except what is said in the **key passage** itself).*

1. God did not create us to be destroyed by His wrath.
2. Our purpose in life is to find salvation.
3. Salvation is through Jesus Christ.
4. Jesus died for us to bring about this salvation
5. If we are sleep or awake then we should live together with Him

Context

(Study context, verses before and after that relate to key passage, and write out what you learn from the context that helps you to properly understand the key passage).

1. The context is from 4:13-5:11. One of the major themes of this book is the second coming of Christ (2:19, 20; 3:11-13; 4:13ff; 5:23). This “salvation” is then in the ultimate sense of the Lord’s return (cf. 1:10).
2. “Wake” or “sleep” (v. 10).
 - a. When Paul mentions the “wake” or “sleep” he is not speaking in a spiritual sense, that is, those who are spiritually asleep, for those men are in sin (5:5, 6).
 - b. Nor is he speaking in the natural sense of literally sleeping in a sleeping chamber or waking up in the literal day time.
 - c. But rather he is speaking in the metaphorical sense of being “awake” (living) or being “asleep” (dead). These Thessalonians had anxieties about the second coming of Christ and of those who had already died and passed on. They may have thought that the day had already come or that those who fell asleep had perished. Paul assures them that those who “sleep in Jesus” will precede us (4:13-15); that Jesus will bring them with Him (3:13); that Jesus will raise them up from the dead (v. 16); we will ascend to meet them and the Lord and be with them forever (vv. 17, 18).

Cross References

(Find and study cross references and write out how they relate to the key passage).

1. Acts 17:26-28. God wants us to seek Him and to prepare to meet Him in this life.
2. Romans 14:8. We ought to carry the cross of Jesus and the hope of Him with us through life and even to death.

Application

(Write out how the key passage, with an understanding of the context and cross references, applies for us today).

1. The relationship that we have with Jesus cannot be interrupted or end at death, but that we will live with Him.
2. Paul makes an application on Jesus dying for us (2 Cor. 5: 14, 15).
3. Salvation is something to be obtained. God doesn’t just give it to you, you must reach for it, you must answer the call (cf. 1 Pet. 2:9, 10; 2 Thess. 2:13,4). God chose them for what? How?; This election was not “unconditional” as per Paul’s concern whether he would have labored in vain (1 Thess. 3:5); some were unruly (5:14); some could quench the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19); some could despise prophecies (v. 21). Once saved is not always saved!