

Just As A Reminder

"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2).

As Paul is writing to the Thessalonians about the day of the Lord or the last day, which would be the Day of Judgment, he notes that there is no need that he should write to them concerning the day of the Lord. If there is no need, then why is he writing to them concerning the day of the Lord? He even says in verse two that they *"know perfectly."* As far as knowledge goes, they knew all about the second coming of Christ. So why is Paul writing to them?

Paul was writing to them not to tell them something new, but to jog their memory of what they already knew. Paul realized that no matter how much knowledge someone has in a certain area, he still needs to be reminded to be encouraged and built up in the faith. It is no different for us today. Why do we read the Bible more than once? Well, we may say it is to learn something new because we will never know it all. While this is absolutely a true statement, another reason we read the Bible more than once is to bring to mind the things we already know. We do this so that we may be built up in the faith.

We also need reminders because of the weakness of our flesh. Jesus told His disciples, *"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (Matthew 26:41). One way to watch out for temptation is to be informed. Repeated studies on a certain sin will most certainly help us to defeat that sin when temptation arises. For instance, a young man or woman may tell you all day long that they know being in a sexual relationship before marriage is wrong. But will they be that confident about it when they just happen to find themselves all alone with their boyfriend or girlfriend in a dark setting? They may know that sex before marriage is wrong, but will they know enough to say no? This is where repetition comes in. The more we study about any sin, the stronger we will become in resisting temptation. Not only this, but an individual will do his best to keep himself out of the situation in which he might be tempted in the first place.

When Paul was writing to the Thessalonians he was reminding them to be ever watchful for the day of the Lord. We find another example of this by the apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3:1, *"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance."* Peter

also saw the importance of repetition, so that those who read his words would be reminded of what they already knew. Repetition, brethren, is essential to our study! We can never study about a subject too much if it concerns the destination of our soul. So the next time you sit down with God's Word, don't hesitate to study something that you have already studied before. Your repetitive study can only make you stronger!

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