

GOD IN ACTION



ONE ARMY: We see a God-raised, Spirit-filled Army for the 21st century - convinced of our calling, moving forward together

We will...

- deepen our spiritual life
- unite in prayer
- identify and develop leaders
- increase self-support and self-denial

ONE MISSION: Into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means

We will...

- emphasise our integrated ministry
- reach and involve youth and children
- stand for and serve the marginalised
- encourage innovation in mission

ONE MESSAGE: With the transforming message of Jesus, bringing freedom, hope and life

We will...

- communicate Christ unashamedly
- reaffirm our belief in transformation
- evangelise and disciple effectively
- provide quality teaching resources

**God in Action Bible Study Manuel produced by Captain Michael Ramsay at the Swift Current Corps of The Salvation Army, September 2012.*

In this Bible Study we will be looking at different ways in which God is active in our world today. We will look at various scriptures and ask ourselves, ‘what are we going to do about it’?

Lesson 10: 1 Thessalonians 5

We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Background and context: Tradition states that this letter was written by the Apostle Paul to the church at Thessalonica even earlier. It was probably one of the earliest of his letters that we still have, being composed ca. 50 CE.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1. When and how is the ‘Day of the Lord’ coming (vv.1-3)?
2. Should we be surprised when this happens? Why or why not (vv 4-5)?
3. What does it mean to be ‘children of the day’?
4. As children of the day what should we do?
5. What does it mean to be sober and to put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of the hope of salvation? How do we do this?
6. Why must we be sober to put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of the hope of salvation?

7. In light of the aforementioned how should we act one unto another?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

1. As we encourage one another (v.11), how should respond to those working alongside us (or even our 'up-line') for the Kingdom?

2. How should we specifically respond to people when they are idle? Do we?

3. How should we respond to people when they are faint-hearted? Do we?

4. How should we specifically respond to people when they are weak? Do we?

5. What should our response be when evil or bad is done to us? Do we?

6. How do we know what is evil?

7. Can we abstain from every sort of evil and thus be kept blameless? If not, why not? If so, how?

What does all of this mean for our lives here today?

Further Reading

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http://sheepspeak.com/Michael_Ramsay_Theology_TSA.htm#Works

Ramsay, Captain Michael. 2011. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 (23&24): The 7 P's and the Pi* Presented to the Nipawin Corps (14 December 2008) and to the Swift Current Corps of The Salvation Army, (11 December 2011) <http://sheepspeaks.blogspot.ca/2008/12/1-thessalonians-516-22-23-7-ps-and-pi.html>

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Wesley, John. 1991. "The Almost Christian." Cited from Outler & Heitzenrater.

Doctrines of The Salvation Army

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God; and that they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.
2. We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.
3. We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead - the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost - undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.
4. We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.
5. We believe that our first parents were created in a state of innocence, but by their disobedience they lost their purity and happiness; and that in consequence of their fall all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has, by His suffering and death, made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.
7. We believe that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are necessary to salvation.
8. We believe that we are justified by grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.
9. We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.
10. We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
11. We believe in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.