

Let's talk about a little concept called: The Day of the Lord. Ever heard of it? It is a very common theme in the Hebrew Scriptures and a little less common, but still present theme in the New Testament. Traditionally it is understood as the day of judgment,

the intersection of God's power and our sinfulness. Another way to look at it is the day when our actions catch up to us. We may be able to live doing our own thing just fine for a while, but truly, we will bear the consequences one day. But there is more. The Greek word for judgment is *krisis*. The Day of the Lord is truly a crisis; a day when the whole impact of our actions and way of living are called to account. It might be brought by a CHP officer during a traffic stop on the freeway for a speeder. It might be a new diagnosis of some life-style or behavior related disease. It might be a lie being found out. It might be the day of final judgment; meeting God "face to face" on your last day or THE last day. Whatever it is; it is painful. It comes when we least expect it; when we are unsuspecting, pre-occupied or focused only on our selves.

Paul wrote of it this way to his little congregation in Thessalonica... (underlines are mine)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night
. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;
5 for you are all children of light and children of the day;

THE DAY OF THE LORD is where God's Power and our need for God intersect. It can be terrible if we have not been aware of what God requires of us: to act like Jesus acted and to be His "hands and feet" in a broken and suffering world. As Christians, we are reminded daily of our need for God in the cross of Christ. Jesus' death is the ultimate expression of a sinful world. When we live as if our lives were our own, we disregard it. When we live as if our concerns are more important than anything else, we deny it. It is only perceived as a bad or difficult day when we have lived for ourselves and not for God. Do not be caught by surprise. Be aware every day of your need for God; God's power, God's direction, God's love, God's promise.

blessings to you from Pastor Karla