POSSIBL SERMON OUTLINE FOR I THESS. 5:1-11
The Epistle for November 26, 1961
The Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Trinity

Introduction: The end of the church year always suggests: Death, Judgment, Future life - Eternal Home With Christ. Christians in Apostolic days concerned about these problems. Paul warned them - these events will come about. When? Up to God! Meantime must wait and watch - watch and wait! - Same principle applies to our church, but 1900 years have passed and the end is not yet! What to do? Forget admonition? Grow careless? No! St. Paul says - You, the children of light, always remain watchful and ready! End will come!

Text speaks of Judgment Day coming like a thief in the night! bringing destruction to the Godless. Let us Watch and be sober, be prepared!

Theme: Watchmen in the Night!

I. Why Be a Watchman in the Night?

A. It is imperative in human life - to escape life's worst dangers - must always be watchful.

(1) This thought runs through all of Scripture: 2 Kings 11, 4-7 (Joash saved from Athaliah); Neh. 4, 7-9; 7:3 (protection of walls of Jerusalem).
(2) Also in New Testament: Matt. 24, 43; Mark 13:33-37.
(3) The watchmen of everyday life; the policeman, highway patrolman, banks and many institutions have watchmen.

B. We must be watchman - Why? Because:

(1) Of the many who scoff and scorn. 2 Peter 3:4.
(2) Because Christ's coming is certain but the time uncertain (v. 2).
(3) Because human nature is weak, prone to the habit of procrastination.
(4) Because if day comes on us unaware share the lot of foolish virgins-Gospel lesson for the day - Matt. 25, 1:13.

II. How Does the Watchman of the Night Conduct Himself?

A. When hire a watchman to guard your house or bank or store expect of him to perform certain duties: Keep awake, alert, resist and report all intruders Paul paints a similar picture of those who await the day of the Lord.

B. First of all, tells us: We are Sons of Light - of the Day - not in darkness. (v. 4-5).

(1) We the sons of light, because have light of God's word, because Christ, who is the Light of the world lives in us. Because He is the Truth - we have the truth.
(2) The Truth, that all will end, life and all human earthly affairs! - Will stand face to face before the Judge - by God's grace not caught off-balance - unawares.

C. As watchmen, who will meet the enemy, we must:

(1) Never be caught napping as the unregenerate (v. 6-7).
(2) But we must put on the breastplate of faith, faith in God who predestined us to salvation, faith in Christ who redeemed us and now has

ascended to prepare a place for us (v. 10) - faith in all the promises of God's word.
(3) We must as the children of light shine forth in the darkness of this evil world! By confession, witnessing, good works!

III. Watchman in the night! Remember the Day Dawns

A. However dark the night or long the hours, the night will vanish. The day will dawn, the sun will shine.

(1) So with the world, filled with darkness, sin, sorrow -
(2) Someday there will be an end for the children of light! No more pain, suffering, sin! The day of Christ will arrive!

B. When that day dawns, will be a day of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1) On that day will share Christ's home (John 14).
(2) Make no difference if still alive in the flesh or sleeping in the grave, all receive new bodies, will share the blessings and glories of Heaven!

Conclusion: Christians, one and all, be sober, be alert, prepare for His coming! Don't fear the end of time, for with it comes the blessings of God, your eternal salvation. This promise of the Lord should fill you with hope, desire to witness to others, encourage others (v. 11). Oh, let us sing with the hymnist: (476 - verse 1).