

“The Dark Night Rises”—THREE

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- **Night Thief**—1 Thessalonians 5:1-4
 - “It is almost as if we have entered a ‘_____’ that just keeps getting worse.” (www.endoftheamericandream.com)
 - Heat and drought/wildfires/tornadoes
 - Economic collapse/poverty explosion/death of American cities
 - Increase in crime/gang violence/war
 - Epidemics: anxiety/drug addiction/child abuse/teenage pregnancy/divorce
 - \$16 trillion national debt/political nightmare
 - “The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the _____ that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous _____.” (*Education* 179)
 - The “thief in the night” metaphor describes the caught-by-_____ reality of the end of the world—if you had known when He was coming, you would have been _____ and _____.
- **Night Dark**—1 Thessalonians 5:5-7
 - Consider two nefarious forms that _____ now assumes in our society:
 - “There is no Light”—the credo of paganism as _____.
 - Christopher Hitchens’ *Mortality*
 - “The darkness is Light”—the credo of paganism as _____.
 - Sex
 - 1 Corinthians 10:20 NKJV—“I do not want you to have fellowship with _____.”
 - 2 Corinthians 11:14—“For Satan himself masquerades as an angel of _____.”
- **Night Armor**—1 Thessalonians 5:8-11
 - A bullet proof vest
 - Notice how Paul uses the same Greek word [*enduo*] multiple times:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:8—“Since we belong to the day, let us be sober, _____ faith and love as a breastplate [bullet-proof vest] and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”
 - Romans 13:14—“But put on the _____.”
 - Galatians 3:27—“For as many of you as were _____ into Christ have put on Christ.”
 - _____ into Christ Jesus is God’s most protective body armor for the children of the light who must live in the dark night at the end of time.

*What are you waiting for . . .
the end of the world?*

perfect storm, intensity, crisis, surprise, ready, waiting, paganism, atheism, hedonism, demons, light, putting on, Lord Jesus Christ, baptized, Baptism