

# Advent Study

## Wide Awake

**ADVENT.** A time to look back as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus into the world to be our Saviour. However, traditionally this has also been a time when the Church looks forward to Christ's second coming. When His Kingdom will fully come and His people will enter into their inheritance. In this study we explore God's Word to see what it means, as God's people, to be ready for that Day, 'wide awake' for our Lord's return, and what armour we have in our continual fight against spiritual slumber.

### Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### Galatians 3:27 & Colossians 3:12-14

<sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:6-10

<sup>6</sup> So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

**READ Romans 13:11-12 and mark every reference to time with a 🕒 and "salvation" with a**

*SALVATION—past rescue from God's wrath and present keeping by Him to receive an inheritance beyond imagining at the Lord's return.*

*V11-12—What is it time to do? Why is it time? How does your heart feel about this truth\*?*

*\* Credit for this very helpful question goes to pastor Thabiti Anyabwile.*

**READ Romans 13:12-14 underlining "so then" and marking "cast off" with an X and "put on" with a ✓**

*V12-13—So then, how do we live 'wide awake'?*

*V14—Who is our armour in the fight?*

*Putting on —not just putting on Christ's character but letting Jesus Christ Himself be the armour we wear (Morris).*

**READ Galatians 3:27 and Colossians 3:12-14 and mark every reference to 'Christ' with a ✝ and 'put on' with a ✓**

*V27—Who, as Christians, have we already put on?*

*V12-14—What does it look like to live as those who have put on Christ?*

*Where do you need to change to be more like Christ?*

**The call then is to live 'wide awake'. So how do we do this? By putting on the armour that God has given. To put on Christ. Let's now examine our armour more closely to see how we do this.**

**READ 1 Thessalonians 5:6-10 and circle the phrase 'keep awake' and mark 'put on' with a ✓, 'faith' with a ↑, love with a ❤ and hope with a ★**

*V8—What armour have we on to help us 'keep awake'?*

*V9-10— Why is it worth the fight? What is our hope? How could you encourage someone with this truth today?*

**Let's look more closely now at faith, love and hope.**

### Hebrews 12:1-2

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [‘hall of faith’ in chapter 11], let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### Galatians 5:6 & 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:10-12

<sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

### 1st John 3:1-3

**3** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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**READ Hebrews 12:1-2 and mark ‘lay aside’ with an X, ‘run’ with a →, ‘faith’ with a ↑ and every reference to Jesus (including pronouns) with a †**

*V1—What are we to lay aside as we run the ‘race of faith’? What things do you need to lay aside?*

*V2—Who do we look to for strength to do this?*

*How is Jesus described?*

*What hope does this give us in our own race?*

*How does Jesus’s own example strengthen our confidence in looking to Him?*

**READ Galatians 5:6 and 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:10-12 and mark every reference to Jesus (including synonyms) with a † ‘faith’ with a ↑ and**

**‘love’ or ‘loved’ with a ♥**

*Propitiation—Jesus enduring God’s wrath that we deserved as punishment for our sins so that we don’t have to.*

*Love—‘agape’ -self giving love that gives without demanding or expecting anything in return.*

*V6—How is genuine faith in Christ demonstrated?*

*How does trusting in Jesus for all we need help us to love others, even our enemies?*

*V10—How did God love us?*

*V11—What are we, who have received God’s love, to do?*

*V12—What is the evidence that God is at work in us?*

**READ 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1-3 and mark ‘love’ with a ♥, every reference to Christ (including pronouns) with a † and ‘hopes’ with a ★**

*V1—How did the Father lavish His love upon us?*

*V2—What is our hope as God’s children? When and how will this happen?*

*V3—What do those who have such hope in Christ do now?*

*How does the hope that what is to come is far better free us to love others now?*

**Reflect on all you have learned from God’s Word and write down one key truth. Bring this truth to God in prayer, asking Him to help you live in the light of it.**

## About this study...

This resource has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation, and provides you with a structure to study a passage, with questions to help you think and reflect on it.

This study gives you a small insight into the world of inductive Bible study through three key parts:

**Observe - What does the text say?**

**Understand - What does the text mean?**

**Apply - What does this mean for me?**

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply, and to live differently.

## About Precept Ireland...

Precept was founded in 1970 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and now works in 160 countries, and has Bible study material translated in over 70 languages. In 2001 Precept was established in Ireland, and has grown through it's mission to engage people in relationship with God through knowing His Word. Precept Ireland seeks to resource and train Bible study leaders to help students like you discover God's truth for yourself and be transformed by it. With more than 250 unique titles ranging from zero to five hours of weekly homework, Precept has a Bible study that meets you where you are.

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Would you love to find out how to study the Bible for yourself, or run an event in your church? Precept Ireland hosts events and inductive Bible study workshops to help individuals and groups. These can be delivered online or we can come to you!

Do you wish others were learning to study God's Word with you? We also provide Leader Training sessions to equip people with the skills needed to lead a Precept Bible study.

Get in touch with us to see how we can help you or your church.

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