

When Will the Lord Return?

S.R. 1 Thess. 4:13 - 18

12 – 10 - 2023

Introduction

- A. Hebrews 9:27 – 28
 - 1. Appear a second time
 - 2. Eagerly wait (v. 28)
- B. Eagerly wait for the Lord (Ph’p. 3:20-21)
 - 1. Eagerly waiters are preparing and anticipating
- C. “Marantha” – come Lord Jesus (1 Cor. 16:21)
- D. 4 Questions:

I. When Will it Happen?

- A. Answer: “I don’t know.” And neither do you.
- B. Matthew 24: Destruction of Jerusalem
 - 1. Matthew 24:34 – 36; 42,44 and Matthew 25:13 “be alert, ready”
 - 2. All judgments in time point to the ultimate judgment at the end of time.
- C. 1 Thess. 5:4 Paul seeks to comfort new Christians
 - 1. “a their in the night” - unexpected
- D. Anyone who claims they know when Jesus is coming back is badly mistaken.

II. What Will Happen When Christ Returns?

- A. Everyone will know it.
 - 1. 1 Thess. 4:16
 - a. “Lord, Himself” with
 - b. Shout, loud voice, trumpet
 - 2. 2 Thess. 1:7 “mighty angels” – flaming fire
 - 3. Everyone will know – no secret appearance
- B. All the dead will be raised (John 5:28 – 29)
 - 1. All who are in the grave will be raised:
 - a. Good and evil – righteous and unrighteous
 - b. Both – (all) are resurrected – no one is left behind.
 - c. 1 Thess. 4:15 – 17 “taken up into the air”
- C. “Dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Thess. 4:15 – 16, 17; cf. John 5:28 – 29)
 - 1. We will not precede the dead in Christ.

2. The righteous will meet Christ in the air.
 3. No mention of Christ ever setting foot on earth or in Jerusalem.
- D. All of us will be judged (Matthew 25:31 – 46)
1. (25:31 – 40) Separation and righteous judged – based upon deeds done.
 2. Those who did not serve Jesus Mt. 25:41 – 46; cf. Matthew 7:21 – 23)
 3. Only two options: Eternal life or Eternal punishment – both last equally.
- E. Heaven and Earth will be Destroyed
1. (2 Peter 3:1 – 7)
 2. Reserved for destruction
 3. This event will come “like a thief” (3:10) “elements dissolved”

III. What Does Eagerly Waiting for the Lord Look Like?

- A. 1 Peter 3 and 1 Thess 4:13 Hopeful people (4:13) Don’t grieve like no hope folks
1. “God will bring with Him” (1 Thess. 4:14)
 2. 1 Peter 3:15 – give a defense based upon your “hope” – is within you.
- B. Prepared (1 Thess 5:4 – 11)
1. “sons of the day” – alert – sober – day, not night, people.
 2. “Preppers” – they are not only “ready” they made preparations because of expectations.
- C. Expectant people prep for the assemblies and meetings – schedule in advance
1. Do we expect that the Lord will return?
 2. 2 Peter 3:11 “Since” this is going to happen
 3. People live according to what they expect will happen.

IV. What Might Prevent us from Eagerly Waiting?

- A. The world (not cosmos) but culture and its distractions.
1. Matthew 13 and Luke 8:14 “thorny ground” = cares, riches, worries and pleasures of this life.
 2. Our physical circumstances are so pleasant that we can’t imagine heaven being better than what we are experiencing now.
- B. God is delaying Christ’s return (2 Peter 3:3 – 13)
1. 35 years after Jesus’s ascension. And 2,000 years later
- C. Note vs. 9 “God is patient” He does not want anyone – you or me – to perish
- D. Waiting and hastening the coming of the day of the Lord (12)