

October 8, 2017

## The Second Coming 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to come back for His own someday. Predictions abound, but no one knows \_\_\_\_\_. Today, we'll study about the second coming. God's Word tells us everything that we \_\_\_\_\_ to know about life and godliness. While there are some things that God doesn't tell us, He always gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ that we need. God is a wise and a loving Father who wishes for \_\_\_\_\_ men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_ according to 1 Timothy 2:4. He gives us that needed truth in His Word, His \_\_\_\_\_ of truth for all people in all places for all time. The Word of God is all-sufficient to teach us His will.

People are fascinated by the end times, but can easily be \_\_\_\_\_. Perhaps you remember some years ago when everybody focused on Y2K and believed a \_\_\_\_\_ disaster would happen. Dire predictions that frightened everyone \_\_\_\_\_ took place. Then people were focused on 2012 with predictions of calamities and total destruction. They \_\_\_\_\_ an ancient Mayan calendar; astrologers, psychics, and even some people think the Bible says 2012 is the year. There was a famous radio preacher who said he was \_\_\_\_\_ that the rapture would take place on May 21, 2011 and the end of the world on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Neither happened, and he proved to be a \_\_\_\_\_ prophet. False teaching ends up causing doubt in the truth and it hurts the cause of Christ.

What can we \_\_\_\_\_ about the second coming of Jesus Christ? While most Christians believe it will happen, there's a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ about signs and times that confuse and needlessly frighten people. We're not interested in religious hoopla. We want to take the \_\_\_\_\_ to look into the Scripture for the truth.

### **Our reading today comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.**

Some people \_\_\_\_\_ to be prophets today, but are they? The Bible gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ of a prophet in Deuteronomy 18:21-22, "You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the LORD has not \_\_\_\_\_?' When a prophet speaks in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be \_\_\_\_\_ of him."

Jeremiah spoke of prophets in his day that were always \_\_\_\_\_ to speak in the name of the Lord. Jeremiah 23:16 says, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Do not \_\_\_\_\_ to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their \_\_\_\_\_ imagination, Not from the mouth of the LORD.'" Verse 32 says, "'Behold I am against those who have prophesied false \_\_\_\_\_,' declares the Lord, 'and related them, and led My people \_\_\_\_\_ by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit,' declares the Lord."

So-called prophets, who falsely \_\_\_\_\_ when Christ will come and the end of the world, cause doubt in the Truth. They make people \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word is not true because their

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prophecy turned out to be false. One religious group predicted 1975 as the end of the world. I have a book in my library entitled, “88 Reasons Why the Lord Will Come in 1988.” The Lord didn’t come then either. Twenty percent, of Americans believe the Lord will come in our \_\_\_\_\_.

While we cannot believe false predictions, we can be \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus is coming again because the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ us that He would. The Lord always \_\_\_\_\_ His promises. He said, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:1-3). Jesus never lies. He will come again to take us \_\_\_\_\_ with Him in heaven.

The Lord Jesus is coming a second time to \_\_\_\_\_ those who love Him. The Bible says, “And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will \_\_\_\_\_ a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him” (Hebrews 9:27-28). Each Lord’s Day, Christians partake of the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of what Jesus did on the cross and in anticipation of His \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible says, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord’s death until He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). Some wonder \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord will come. The Lord Jesus himself discussed this. **Read Matthew 24:35-39.**

In 2011 a man \_\_\_\_\_ predicted the rapture on May 21 and the end of the world on October 21. But when those events didn’t happen, there was a devoted follower who said the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_. God’s Word actually proved \_\_\_\_\_, while the human prediction of that false prophet proved \_\_\_\_\_ both times. The Bible said \_\_\_\_\_ knows when the Lord will come a second time or when the world will end. “But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone” (Mark 13:32). God has not revealed something to man \_\_\_\_\_ that the Father did not even reveal to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus told the apostles in answer to a similar question, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has \_\_\_\_\_ by His own authority” (Acts 1:7).

We do know that God hasn’t revealed \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus will return. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5.** Just as we don’t know when a \_\_\_\_\_ will break into our homes, we don’t know when the Lord Jesus will return. To say we do know shows that the Word of God is not in us.

So... “What will \_\_\_\_\_ when Jesus comes again?” The first evidence of His coming will be a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible says, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:16). A shout and a trumpet will call people’s attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus. No one will \_\_\_\_\_ what is about to happen.

How will Jesus appear to us? He’ll come in the clouds in great glory. The Bible tells us of the Lord’s ascension into heaven. **Read Acts 1:9-11.** Jesus will one day appear in \_\_\_\_\_ with his mighty angels in the clouds.

The Bible says, “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and \_\_\_\_\_ eye will see Him, even

those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen” (Revelation 1:7). Every person will see the Lord Jesus on that day. Every person will know He is \_\_\_\_\_; He is in \_\_\_\_\_; and He is the \_\_\_\_\_. On that day, every knee will \_\_\_\_\_ and every tongue will \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father.

When the Lord Jesus comes again, He will bring back with Him the spirits of those who have \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible says, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:14-16). The departed spirits of the righteous dead will come back to earth with Jesus, and they will be resurrected. Then their bodies will be \_\_\_\_\_. The raising up of the righteous spirits means they will have \_\_\_\_\_ bodies. I’ll speak more about this next week.

We should not think, however, that \_\_\_\_\_ the righteous will be raised on the last day. In fact, \_\_\_\_\_ the dead will be raised. The Lord Jesus himself said, “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the \_\_\_\_\_ deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the \_\_\_\_\_ deeds to a resurrection of judgment” (John 5:28-29). The apostle Paul said, “there shall certainly be a resurrection of \_\_\_\_\_ the righteous and the wicked” (Acts 24:15).

Those of us who are alive, if we are alive when the Lord returns, will be \_\_\_\_\_. Our bodies will be \_\_\_\_\_ like the bodies of the resurrected. They will have imperishable, immortal bodies. At that point the Lord will cause them to be caught up into the \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible says, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (that is, the resurrected) in the \_\_\_\_\_ to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The Bible says, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly \_\_\_\_\_ for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state (the body we have right now) into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the \_\_\_\_\_ that He has even to subject all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:20-21). Our new, glorified bodies will \_\_\_\_\_ us for life in heaven.

You might hear the word “rapture” now and then, to speak of this \_\_\_\_\_ of those in Christ who were resurrected and those who are alive. The word “rapture” comes from the Latin term “rapio” used to translate the concept of being “caught up” to meet the Lord. Some say the rapture happens much \_\_\_\_\_ than the general resurrection. They say this because 1 Thessalonians does not really \_\_\_\_\_ the resurrection of the wicked; but as we have seen, the Lord Jesus said that the resurrection of the good and the evil will happen on the \_\_\_\_\_ day (John 5:28-29).

When Jesus comes again, the earth and its works will be \_\_\_\_\_ up. “But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for \_\_\_\_\_, kept for the day of judgment and

destruction of ungodly men” (2 Peter 3:7). “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be \_\_\_\_\_ with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in \_\_\_\_\_ conduct and godliness” 2 Peter 3:10-11). Second Thessalonians 1:7 says, “the Lord Jesus shall be \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire.”

Words such as “fire,” “intense heat,” and “destroyed” clearly show the present heavens and earth will \_\_\_\_\_ be our dwelling place throughout eternity. This phrase “elements” refers to those elementary things of which this \_\_\_\_\_ world is made. These elements will be \_\_\_\_\_ by burning itself; intense heat. Second Peter 3:12-13 remind us to look for “the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will \_\_\_\_\_ with intense heat. But according to His \_\_\_\_\_ we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

First John 2:17 simply says this world is passing away. It’s foolish to get so wrapped up in this world and to \_\_\_\_\_ there is more beyond. The Lord Jesus is coming back one day for His people. Those whose robes are washed white in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus and whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life will live with Him forever. Nothing is more important! I have a wonderful wedding ring that my wife put on my finger when we married. It’s important to me, very important. But, when the Lord Jesus comes for me I can’t \_\_\_\_\_ this wedding ring with me. I have to \_\_\_\_\_ it here. The only thing that I can take to heaven with me is my \_\_\_\_\_ and the new body He will give me. Are you prepared to go to heaven? Nothing is more important.

If you saw Jesus coming in the clouds right now, what would you think and how would you react? Could you say, “Come, Lord Jesus,” and welcome Him; or would you \_\_\_\_\_ the Day of the Lord? How you \_\_\_\_\_ that question says a lot about where you are spiritually. Many people want the Lord to come someday, but they want to live as they \_\_\_\_\_ for the moment and not make the needed changes to \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord’s coming. They presume they’ll have plenty of time; that it’ll come later; it’ll be okay; and they can get right with the Lord later on.

Because the Lord will return like a thief in the night and we don’t know when, we must be \_\_\_\_\_ for His coming at all times. We ought to live \_\_\_\_\_ day as if it were the \_\_\_\_\_ one before the Lord returns. If it’s the last day, what changes do you need to make in your life? Is your heart right with the Lord? Are you living as you ought to live? Maybe you have loved ones that need to get right with the Lord. Not knowing when the Lord will return doesn’t mean that we have \_\_\_\_\_ of time; it means that we must be prepared at all times.

If you’re not right with the Lord, today is the very best day to \_\_\_\_\_ to the grace of God in obedience to the gospel. Believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Repent and \_\_\_\_\_ from your sins, and let the Lord rule your life. Upon the public confession of your faith, be baptized in His name. Baptism into Christ means being baptized into His \_\_\_\_\_ according to Romans 6:3. Baptism brings us into contact with His blood, and unites us with Him in His burial and resurrection. It frees us from sin according to Romans 6:4-7. So don’t wait, obey the Lord today!