

The Sermon: The Day of the Lord

The Apostles' Creed is the essential guide to the basics of the Christian life.

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

As we believe, "he shall come to judge the quick and the dead," Jesus is coming back to restore, renew, reign, complete what he began 2000 years ago. However, the second coming of Christ is unpopular today.

Today, Paul reminds us of the Second Coming of Jesus in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, "Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."

The early church was powerful in faith because believers had confidence that Jesus was coming again. Someone said that the Old Testament from Genesis preached "Christ is Coming." The Gospels preaches "Jesus is Here." And the rest of the New Testament books from Acts to Revelation. "Jesus is Coming Again."

Have you ever had guests drop by when the house is a mess, you're a mess, and there is nothing in the refrigerator? It isn't very comfortable. One cannot be held accountable if they did not know the guests were coming. How many of you believe in the physical second coming of Jesus Christ? If you believe he is coming, are you prepared for it?

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During WWII, there was a seaman who served on a small submarine chaser in the South Pacific.

While on the ship, one of the strict commands was always to be combat ready, which meant even when you took a shower, you were to keep your gear nearby. Now, there were times when the crew would not see another ship or plane for weeks. And during those times, they would become a little lax in their readiness. Then one morning, the seaman and some of his shipmates were showering when the air-raid siren went off, and they were immediately called to their stations. There was only one problem, no clothes.

As he came out of the shower, a helmet was slapped on his head, and he had to run immediately to his post as an artillery loader with nothing on but a helmet.

Can you imagine the look on the enemy pilot's face when they looked on the ship with naked men handling the guns? This seaman and his buddies found out quickly that not being ready had some pretty severe consequences.

Unfortunately, the same thing is true for many people. They are not ready and watching for the return of Jesus. They have no time to worship God. They never ask God for the wisdom of life. They care nothing about spiritual things.

So, Paul encourages us today in 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 "God didn't set us up for an angry rejection but for salvation by our Master, Jesus Christ. He died for us, a death that triggered life. Whether we're awake with the living or asleep with the dead, we're alive with him! So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it."

When we walk in readiness, we will look for the coming of Jesus with excitement and expectancy. Are you ready for the second coming of Christ? Let us keep on worshiping together and connecting together until the Day of Christ Jesus.

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