

Do You Love His Appearing?

January 31, 2019

2 Timothy 4:6-8 ESV

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

Hebrews 9:27 ESV

27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.

John 16:13 ESV

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 ESV

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

[FLESH] *Galatians 5:17 ESV*

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

[WORLD] *Mark 4:17, 19 ESV*

17 ...when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

19 ...the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

[SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL] *Ephesians 6:12 ESV*

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 ESV

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

1 Corinthians 13:12 ESV

12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

- *The child of God longs for heaven, either by death or by rapture, not just to escape hell but to, first and foremost, be with Jesus.*
- *Loving His appearing is the impetus for spiritually preparing and living a life pleasing to Him.*
- *Loving His appearing is the endurance to keep the faith and finish our race to the end.*

Philippians 1:21-24 ESV

21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.

23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

- *We live to see and to know Him face to face.*
- *As Christians, we love heaven and long to be there because that is where Jesus is. We love Him more than life itself, more than any earthly attachment, affection or possession.*
- *Many times we pray for physical healing and protection as though death is second-best or a failure of faith. The passage of death is faith's greatest victory, when our faith is made sight!*
- *We see the earth life and this world system for what it is; evil, sinful, corrupt and temporary. We long for the joy, the permanence, the holiness, the light, the eternal life of being with Jesus face to face.*
- *Heaven is where our heart and treasure are.*

Revelation 2:1-5 NASB

1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

2 "I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;

3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

4 But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent.

- *People embrace Christianity for many reasons, but they are going through the motions with no true relationship with Jesus:*
 - *alternative way of life*
 - *the means to an end*
 - *self-worth, self-image*
 - *sense of forgiveness and peace; freedom from guilt*
 - *morality, wholesomeness*
 - *cultural and national reform*
- *There is only one lasting and genuine impetus to be a Christian which God accepts - being in love with God, His person and presence.*

Matthew 22:34-40 ESV

34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.

35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

38 This is the great and first commandment.

39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ESV

9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to

God from idols to serve the living and true God,

10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- *We are not on this earth to build our treasure, our security, our hope, our worth, our home, our life here in this world.*
- *We are here on this earth for one reason, waiting for Jesus from heaven.*

Luke 22:59-62 ESV

59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean."

60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

- *Do you see your sin as an infraction of the rules or as a betrayal of relationship?*
- *How you see your sin will directly bear on your repentance and hatred for the sin.*
 - *If an infraction, your focus will be on yourself (worldly sorrow)*
 - *If betrayal, your focus will be on the one offended (godly sorrow)*

Matthew 6:19-24 ESV

19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,

20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,

23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.