

Waiting For His Son From Heaven

February 10, 2019

What is the mission and disposition of the Church and the Christian while on earth?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 ESV

- 1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.
- 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
- 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

What is the "Day of the Lord?"

2 Peter 3:10-12 ESV

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

What the Signs and the Times of the Day of the Lord?

Matthew 16:1-3 ESV

- 1 And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven.
- 2 He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.'
- 3 And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

Luke 21:7-11 ESV

7 And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?"

8 And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them.

9 And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

10 Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

1 Timothy 4:1 ESV

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 ESV

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,
4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 ESV

1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,
2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

"In North America, the church is in decline. Some even claim it is dying. Most denominations—including evangelical denominations—are shrinking."

Dr. Ed Stetzer, Executive Director of the Billy Graham Center of Evangelism, "Writing on the Wall - The Church is Not Growing"

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 ESV

4 **But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.**
5 **For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.**
6 **So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober (alert, ready, temperate).**
7 **For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. (blindness of night, can't see what is happening and coming)**
8 **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.**

"Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him."

— A.W. Tozer, Preparing for Jesus' Return: Daily Live the Blessed Hope

What happens to the Church in the Day of the Lord?

Revelation 3:10-11 ESV

10 **Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.**
11 **I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.**

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 ESV

9 **For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,**
10 **who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 ESV

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

What's taking so long?

2 Peter 3:8-9 ESV

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 24:14 ESV

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

What is the mission and disposition of the Church and the Christian while on earth?

- *The intent of the Great Commission is not social reform or political activism. It is not to Christianize a nation or to save the world.*
- *The intent of the Great Commission has to be defined in the context of the Day of the Lord.*
- *The intent of the Great Commission is for as many people as possible to be saved from the wrath to come in the Day of the Lord.*
- *As long as the Lord, in mercy, is delaying His coming, we are to be busy sharing and teaching the Gospel, because that is the heart of our Father in heaven.*

Waiting, Loving, Preparing for His Appearing

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.

2 Timothy 4:8 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.

Ephesians 5:25-27 ESV

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

"Our LORD thus appears only to those who look for Him. He will not be seen in this character by men whose eyes are blinded with self and sin. To them He will be a terrible Judge and nothing more. We must first look to Him and then look for Him; and in both cases our look shall be life."

—Charles Spurgeon