

## **Lighthouse Bible Church**

**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 1 – 3** *Scripture Reading: Matthew 24: 36 - 44*

**‘Living Faithfully until He comes’**

### **Stand – Read – Pray**

We have been looking in Matthew 24 at our Lord’s own words about His return to earth at His second coming. He was asked ‘what would be the sign of Your coming and the end of the age’ in Matthew 24: 3.

So Jesus answers their question by telling them what signs to watch for that will begin to happen more and more frequently the closer it gets to My return. He told them in Verses 4 – 26 many signs to watch for that will lead up to His return.

Then He tells them in Verses 27 – 31, that we saw last week, what will be happening just before He returns and what His return will be like. He said it will happen ‘immediately after the tribulation of those days’, He said it will be as visible as lightning flashing in the sky, He said that the sun won’t be shining, the moon won’t give its light and the stars will fall from heaven.

And in the midst of that, the sign of the Son of Man will be seen because it is the Son of Man, it is Jesus coming in the clouds with power and great glory that will shine forth in the darkness of the earth for every eye to see Him in the brightness of His glory and power.

We saw that Jesus said that when He comes back He will send out His angels to gather His elect, His chosen, those born again believers alive during this time and gather them to Himself.

And in doing that, He said in **Matthew 13: 41, 49**, and in **2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1: 7 – 9** and other places, that His angels will also gather all unbelievers and cast them into the lake of fire where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

All of the events in Matthew Chapter 24 that are paralleled in Revelation 6 – 19 are happening during the time known as the tribulation period. And as we have studied before, the church, all born again believers on the face of the earth, will be taken to heaven, in the rapture, before this tribulation time begins.

You can read about the rapture itself in such verses as **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4: 15 – 17**, and **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 50 – 54** and in **John 14: 1 – 3**. And it is the rapture that **Revelation 3: 10** says **will keep us from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole earth, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

So the question becomes; what do we do, how do we live in light of knowing these events are about to take place in Matthew 24 and Revelation 6 – 19, and that we are soon going to meet the Lord in the air at the rapture, how should we live, how should we conduct ourselves in light of knowing all of this, in light of Him coming for us?

Because that is truly the important question that needs to be answered in light of a study about the signs that the end is near. These are fascinating things to know and study when it comes to the future, but how does that translate and motivate us for today. I want us to take what we have learned and apply it to our lives right now.

And because much of our study took us in and out of the book of Revelation, then we need to heed the words of **Revelation 1: 3** & **Revelation 22: 7**

**Blessed is he who read and those who hear the words of this prophecy and KEEP those things which are written in it; for the time is near. Jesus said behold I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who KEEPS the words of the prophecy of this book.** We have the duty, privilege and obligation to KEEP the words of this book of Revelation and every book attached to it as we watch and wait for the return of Jesus Christ.

Jesus will go on in the rest of Matthew 24 and Matthew 25 to tell His readers and hearers, that in light of His return they are to **Matthew 24: 42 WATCH therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. Matthew 24: 44 therefore you also be READY for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**

**Matthew 24: 45 – 46 Jesus says to be faithful and wise servants and doers of His word and will** must like a master gives His servant instructions to follow in taking care of His household till He returns.

**Matthew 25: 1 – 13** we are to be wise and watchful concerning His coming and not foolishly wasting our time and not being prepared for it, much like the 5 foolish and 5 wise virgins.

**Matthew 25: 14 – 30** we are to faithfully and fruitfully invest in God's kingdom by using our gifts and abilities to further His kingdom, much like the parable of the talents.

So in order to do that and answer that question, we are going to look at how the scriptures say we are to live in light of what we know about the end of the age and the return of Jesus Christ. And we will go back, first of all, to **1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 1 – 3** and then move on from there.

...we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure.

When Jesus Christ does come back, we are going to be like Him, in His glorified body. **Philippians 3: 20 – 21** says **for our citizenship is in heaven from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will TRANSFORM our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...**Not only that, but we have been promised, according to **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1: 4**, **to be partakers of His divine nature.**

And because of that promise of a transformed lowly body into a glorified body like that of our Lord and the promise of His divine nature which is able to escape the corruption of the world, that provides us with an incredible **hope**. When a born again Christian is going through a difficult time of depression or hopelessness for whatever reason, and some do, this verse should bring incredible hope to them. Do you cling to this hope?

Not only that, but when we have that kind of hope **we purify ourselves, just as He is pure**. Do you realize that the hope we have in the return of Jesus Christ becomes a purifying agent in our lives. That hope of His return and being like Him motivates us to be ready when that happens by consciously living in purity and holiness. That is why **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7: 1** says **let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting HOLINESS** (same root word as purify *hagios*) **in the fear of the Lord.**

Knowing that Jesus is going to come back someday soon ought to motivate us to live pure holy lives. **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 3: 13** says **that He may establish your hearts blameless in HOLINESS before our God and Father at the COMING of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.**

So how can we live pure holy lives as we wait for His coming? Well, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 22** says **since you have PURIFIED your souls in OBEYING the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another.** Living a pure holy life is done as we obey the Word of truth and live out those truths in our lives that above all shows itself in love for others.

In **1<sup>st</sup> John 2: 28 – 29** it says **abide in Him that when He APPEARS, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His COMING. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.**

We as born again believers are called to **abide** or remain or stay in Him, in Christ. Our abiding in Christ is evidence of our salvation and it gives us a **confidence** that shows itself in our daily **practice of righteousness**, not perfection, but righteous living so that we will not be **ashamed** at His **coming**.

Is your life one of consistent holy, righteous living because you are abiding in Christ by obeying His Word and living in the confident hope of His coming, or are there things that you would be ashamed of that you would not want Him to know or see?

In **Titus 2: 13 – 14** *Read ... teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present age, why, because we are looking for the blessed hope and glorious APPEARING of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

And while we are waiting and watching for Him we, as His redeemed people, are to be **zealous for good works**. Looking for His glorious appearing as if it would happen any minute and working for Him as if it would not be for a long time.

In **Romans 13: 11 – 14** our salvation is nearer, because the return of Jesus Christ is nearer, than when we first believed. **The night is far spent the day is at hand, therefore let us CAST OFF the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk decently as in the day not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust not in strife and envy, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ and MAKE NO PROVISION for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.**

In **James 5: 7 - 9** he is talking about being oppressed and persecuted by people, especially the rich, and then he tells them **therefore be patient brethren until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient** and that is a patience with people, not circumstances, **establish your hearts for the COMING of the Lord is at hand.** Then he says this patience should show itself as you **do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be judged, behold the judge is standing at the door.**

Turn to **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4: 15 – 18** *Read* He then says **therefore COMFORT one another with these words.** This is talking about the rapture and the comfort we find in knowing that those who have died before us will be reunited with us and we will be forever with the Lord.

**Proverbs 12: 25** says **anxiety in the heart of man causes depression but a good word makes it glad.** I can't think of any better words than the return of Jesus Christ. Are they words of comfort for you here this morning or are they words of dread because you don't know if you will be taken in the rapture?

In **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 50 – 58** Paul talks about the rapture happening **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, when the dead are raised incorruptible and the living changed** and then **sin and death are swallowed up in victory through Jesus Christ.**

And then it says **therefore my beloved brethren**, because we have a promise of a resurrection and meeting our Lord, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

All your ministry and work and labor done in the name of the Lord and for His glory, from a pure heart motive, as you wait for His return, will not be in vain. We remain **steadfast** in our relationship with the Lord, we remain **immovable** in our following of Him and it will show itself as we **abound in our work for Him.**

Peter said in **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 13 – 15** **gird up the loins of your mind, be sober and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the REVELATION of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to your former lusts, as in your ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct...**

He will write later in **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3: 10 – 13** about the **day of the Lord coming as a thief in the night** and all of creation **is burned up** and then he'll say **therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in HOLY CONDUCT and GODLINESS, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...because we are looking for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

Then he says in **Verse 14** **therefore beloved, looking forward to these things, be DILIGENT to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless in character and reputation.**

Then finally, one last one in **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6: 11 – 14** ... he says in **Verse 14** **that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing.**

Well, what is the commandment he and us are to keep? If you go back to **Verse 11:** the commandment to Timothy, at to us, is **flee from worldly things like greediness and the love of money and to pursue RIGHTEOUSNESS, GODLINESS, FAITH, LOVE, PATIENCE, GENTLENESS.** We are to **fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life** and all that entails.

So as we look forward to and hasten the return of Jesus Christ; are we:

- 1) Reading, Hearing and Keeping the words of this book?
- 2) Are we Watchful and are we Ready for His return
- 3) Do we Hope in His return and does that Purify our life
- 4) Do we continually Abide in Him with Confidence and live in and practice Righteousness
- 5) Do we Deny Ungodliness and Worldly Lust and are we living Soberly, Righteously and Godly and are we Zealous for Good Works
- 6) Are we Casting Off the Works of Darkness and Putting on the Armor of Light. Are we walking Decently and not in Revelry, Drunkenness, Lewdness, Lust, Strife or Envy. Will we Put On the Lord Jesus Christ and Make No Provision for the Flesh to fulfill its lusts?
- 7) Are we patient with all people and not willing to grumble against anyone?
- 8) Are we steadfast, immovable and Always abounding in the word of the Lord?
- 9) Are we resting our hope fully on His return and not living in our former lusts and are we living Holy lives because He has called us to Holiness?
- 10) Are you living in Holy Conduct and Godliness as you look forward and even hasten the return of Jesus Christ?

11) Are you at Peace with Christ and are you living a life without spot or blameless in your character and reputation?

12) Are you more concerned with pursuing worldly things, money and possessions than you are with pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and gentleness? And are you fighting the good fight of faith?

As we come to the Lord's Table it says **as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He COMES.**

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**1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 1 – 3**  
**‘Living Faithfully Until He Comes’**

Introduction and Review:

Matthew 13: 41, 49, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1: 7 – 9  
1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4: 15 – 17, John 14: 1 – 3  
1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 50 – 54, Revelation 3: 10

Reading, Hearing and Keeping the Words of this Book:  
Revelation 1: 3, Revelation 22: 7

Watchful, Ready, Wise, Faithful and Fruitful:

Matthew 24: 42, 44 – 46, 25: 1 – 13, 14 – 30

A Hope that Purifies:

John 3: 1 – 3, Philippians 3: 20 – 21, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1: 4  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7: 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 3: 13, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 22

Confidence while Practicing Righteousness:

1<sup>st</sup> John 2: 28 – 29

Denying Ungodliness and Living Righteously:

Titus 2: 13 – 14

Casting off and Putting on as our Salvation draws near:

Romans 13: 11 – 14

Being Patient with and not Grumbling against one another:

James 5: ;7 – 9

Words of Comfort and the return of Jesus Christ:

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4: 15 – 18, Proverbs 12: 25

Steadfast, Immovable and Abounding in the Lord’s work:

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 50 – 58

Rest your hope fully on the Revelation of Jesus Christ:

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 13 – 15

The Day of the Lord as a Thief in the Night:

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3: 10 – 14

Keep the Commandment until our Lord’s Appearing:

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6: 11 - 14

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