

## Essential Commitments of a Local Church pt 11

We are Committed to the Return of Jesus Christ rather than the Riches of Earth.

Acts 1:6-11

Acts 1:6–11 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup> who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

# **Introduction:**

## **Essential Commitments of a Local Church Pt. 8**

**I. We are Committed to a High View God Rather than a Deification of Man.**

**II. We are Committed to the Absolute Authority and Sufficiency of the Scriptures Rather than the Tradition of Man**

**III. We are Committed to Sound Doctrine Rather Than the Dumbing Down of Doctrine.**

**IV. We are Committed to the Preaching of the Word Rather than Pragmatic Methodology**

**V. We are Committed to Integrated Worship with the Family rather than the Segregation of the Family**

**VI. We are Committed to Personal Holiness Rather than Worldliness.**

**VII. We are Committed to a plurality of Godly Leadership than the Business or Democratic Model.**

**VIII. We are Committed to Evangelism of the Sinner rather than Moral Reform of the Society.**

**IX. We are Committed to the Return of Jesus Christ rather than the Riches of Earth.**

## **LESSON:**

Acts 1:6–11 (NKJV)

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I. The Parousia—Coming

II. The Precursors —Preceding events

III. The Pertinence —Application

## **I. The Parousia—Coming**

**Matthew 24:1–3 (NKJV)**

**24** Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup> Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

## **2 Thessalonians 2:1 (NKJV)**

**2** Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

## **Mark 13:24–27 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; <sup>25</sup> the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

## **Revelation 6:12–17 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. <sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. <sup>14</sup> Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. <sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup> For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

## **Revelation 7:9–17 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup> All the

angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying:

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,  
*Be to our God forever and ever.*  
Amen.”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”

<sup>14</sup> And I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. <sup>16</sup> They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; <sup>17</sup> for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you

sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> 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 will by no means precede those who are asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

## I. The Parousia—Coming

## II. The Precursors —Preceding events

### Mark 13:5–20 (NKJV)

Matt. 24:4–26; Luke 21:8–24

<sup>5</sup> And Jesus, answering them, began to say: “**Take heed that no one deceives you.** <sup>6</sup> **For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many.**”



7 But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for *such things* must happen, but the end *is* not yet.

8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

9 “But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them.

10 And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

11 But when they arrest *you* and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

12 Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

13 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

14 “So when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation,*’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

15 Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house.

16 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

17 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

18 And pray that your flight may not be in winter.

19 For *in* those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.

20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1–4 (NKJV)

2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

<sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:8–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

<sup>9</sup> The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

<sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

<sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

<sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

I. The Parousia—Coming

II. The Precursors —Preceding events

**III. The Pertinence —Application**

## **Matthew 24:36–44 (NKJV)**

<sup>36</sup> “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

<sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

<sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

<sup>39</sup> and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

<sup>40</sup> Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

<sup>41</sup> Two *women will be* grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

<sup>42</sup> Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

<sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

<sup>44</sup> Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

## **1 Thessalonians 5:1–11** (NKJV)

**5** But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

<sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

<sup>3</sup> For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

<sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

<sup>5</sup> You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

<sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

<sup>8</sup> But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation.

<sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

## 2 Peter 3:3–9 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

<sup>4</sup> and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”

<sup>5</sup> For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

<sup>6</sup> by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

<sup>7</sup> But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

<sup>8</sup> But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us,

not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

## 2 Peter 3:10–15 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

<sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

<sup>15</sup> and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

## 2 Peter 3:17–18 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

<sup>18</sup> but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.