

## INTRODUCTION

1. Out internal experiences often depend on external events: people. Phil 4:4-5
2. If Jesus were present, would He affect our *spirit*? Proximity of the person Jesus, determines how we interact w/ all persons - *all men*. *The Lord is near*.

**1st: The Certainty of Christ's Return:**

1. Commands then assertion: *The Ld is near!* Motivates obedience to commands.
2. Taken 1 of 2 ways: 1) temporal [soon]; or spatial [here]. Today: temporal
3. We live in rln to what we expect. Jesus will return "tomorrow."
4. Tit 2:11-14 - Rm 8:24-25; 1Pt 1:3-9, 13. *completely* - focused goal. Do not settle for a truncated eschatology - biblical, realistic & balanced expectations.

**2nd: The Serenity of the Christian**

1. Phil 4:6-9 this is not personality: is it supernatural serenity. Are we aware of jdgmnt on Babylon? Yes. But [Lk 21:28] - *we lift up our heads & see that the Lord is near!*
2. Heb 10:23-25 & 1 Pt 4:7-9 Jms 5:7-9 patience

**Applic #1: Live in Anticipation of the Lord's Return**

1. What can we expect if we live in gentle joy? 1 Pt 3:13-16.
2. *Hope* w/ serenity.
3. Come to the Supper & experience the joy of your salvation & serenity of your hope - in Christ. W/ nourished faith, live knowing that *the Lord is near*.