

INTRODUCTION

- * The final point of last week's message regarding "The Sanctity of Marriage" was having a Sanctified Perspective in your marriage. That sanctified perspective is keep Christ at the forefront of your joint priorities.
- * In the context of that discussion, Paul makes a statement in v. 29 "But this I say brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none ..."
- * I was asked after the service regarding the potential implications of Paul's statement. Was Paul referring to the return of Christ? If he was, then he was in error. If that is the case, then his writings are subject to questioning as those of a "false prophet."
- * I believe this is an important consideration for us to take up ... but, will require more than just a tag-on to a message.
- * First, we need to be reminded of our "Prophetic Parameters" revealed in Daniel 9 and Revelation 11. Then, we will use Jesus' end time teaching as the foundation of our study.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE ENVIRONMENT OF HIS RETURN (24:3-26)**

A. It Will Be Marked By I _____ (24: 6-7)

B. It Will Be Marked By N _____ (24: 7-8)

C. It Will Be Marked By S _____ (24: 4-5, 9-14)

1. NEGATIVELY

- a. Deception (v. 5, 11; 23-26; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4,13-15; 2 Peter 3:1-9)
- b. Persecution (v. 9-10)
- c. Distraction (v. 12-13; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:1-4; Revelation 2:1-5)

2. POSITIVELY (v. 14) ... *THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED TO ALL PEOPLES – AS A WITNESS***II. THE EXPECTATION OF HIS RETURN (24: 23-51)**

A. He Will Come A _____ (v. 21-29, 34)

1. WHAT IS THE TRIBULATION?

- * For the elect's sake it will be shortened (v. 22; Revelation 6:9-11; 9:1-4)
- * The sun will be darkened; the moon will not give it's light; the stars will fall from the heaven ... (cf. Revelation 8:12)
- * It is NOT THE WRATH of God! (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:9)

2. WHAT IS THE GENERATION? (v. 34; cf. Luke 21:24; Romans 11:25)

B. He Will Come I _____ (v. 30; Acts 1:6-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Revelation 10:1-4)

C. He Will Come A _____ (v. 36-51)

1. THE STATEMENT OF HIS IMMINENCY (v. 36-42; Acts 1:6-7; Revelation 3:11; 1 Thess 5:1-6; 2 Peter 3:10)

2. THE ANTICIPATION OF HIS IMMINENCY

- * cf. Rom 13:0-14; 1 Cor 7:29; 10:11; 1 Thess 4:15-17; Heb 9:24-26; Jam 5:7-9; 1 Pet 4:7,17; 1 John 2:18; Rev 1:1

3. THE IMPACT OF HIS IMMINENCY (v. 43-51; 1 Cor 7:29-33; Titus 2:11-13; Heb 10:24-25; Jam 5:7-9; 1 Pet 4:7; 1 Jn 2:28)

INTROSPECTION

- * THE APOSTLES LIVED AS THOUGH CHRIST WAS COMING IN THEIR DAY ... ARE YOU?
- * WHAT IMPACT HAS THE RETURN OF CHRIST HAD UPON YOUR LIFE?
- * WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO BE PREPARED FOR THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF THIS LIFE?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * What are some ways that the return of Christ should impact our lives ... and our church?
- * How should the return of Christ impact our evangelism?

2 Corinthians 11: 3-4, 13-15 “But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted – you may well put up with it! ... For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

2 Peter 3:1-9 ¹ Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, ³ knowing this first: that **scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,** ⁴ 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.**” ⁵ 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, ⁶ by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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

2 Timothy 3:1-5 ¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

2 Timothy 4:1-4 ¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Revelation 2:1-5 ¹ “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:’ ² ‘I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;’ ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

Revelation 6:9-11 ⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of **those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.** ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Revelation 9:1-4 ¹ Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. ³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Revelation 8:12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For **God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ

Luke 21:24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Romans 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

2 Peter 3:8 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.

Acts 1:6-11 ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ 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.**”

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

Revelation 10:1-4 ¹ I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. ² He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³ and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. ⁴ Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.”

Revelation 3:11 “Behold, I am coming quickly! ...”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 ¹ But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.** ³ 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. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

2 Peter 3:10 **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.

Romans 13:10-14 ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. ¹¹ And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; **for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.** ¹² 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. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

Hebrews 9:24-26 ²⁴ For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; ²⁵ not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- ²⁶ He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once **at the end of the ages**, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

James 5:7-9 ⁷ 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. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord is at hand.** ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, **the Judge is standing at the door!**

1 Peter 4:7 "But **the ends of all things is at hand**; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."

1 Peter 4:17 For **the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1 John 2:18 Little children, **it is the last hour**; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--**things which must shortly take place.** And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John ...

1 Corinthians 7:29-33 ²⁹ But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, ³⁰ those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, ³¹ and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away. ³² But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord--**how he may please the Lord.** ³³ But he who is married cares about the things of the world--how he may please his wife.

Titus 2:11-13 ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² **teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,** ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 10:24-25 ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order **to stir up love and good works,** ²⁵ **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

James 5:7-9 ⁷ 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. ⁸ **You also be patient. Establish your hearts**, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ **Do not grumble against one another**, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

1 Peter 4:7 "But the ends of all things is at hand; therefore **be serious and watchful in your prayers.**"

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, **abide in Him**, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.