

WEEK 3 – THE KING IS COMING – 1 THESSALONIANS 4 & 5

MONDAY – Jesus is coming for us



Matthew 24:30 (NIV) *Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.*

Romans 14:7-9 (NIV) *For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

In First Thessalonians Paul reinforces the faith of the young church in Thessalonica. **Romans 14:7-9** reflects the confidence which underpins Paul's faith. As exhibited in 1 Thessalonians, Paul specifically focuses on the return of the King, the Messiah that is Jesus Christ and seeks to comfort the Thessalonians amongst others about those believers who would die before the coming of the Lord, saying that they will go ahead of those believers who would still be alive.

The main message here is one of hope.

For the rest of the week we will focus on Paul's teaching on the coming of the King.

Reflection:

In a world where our faith is regularly challenged, we need to be sure of our faith. Studying the scriptures; regular, quality time in prayer; and fellowship with the community of believers are awesome divine gifts in this regard.



Prayer: Abba Father, just as in the time of Paul, we live in difficult times. Give me the same strong faith that the Thessalonians had, to thus grow in faith and to share the good news with everyone around me. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN

“Oorwinningslied / Dan Moet Ek Juig” by Onbeskaamd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aBWqJaJY3A>

TUESDAY – Parable or divine promise



John 14:3 (NIV) *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.*

Matthew 25:13 (NIV) *Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour*

Daniel 12:1-2 (NIV) *At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.*

At least one of the scriptures given for each day this week was spoken by Jesus Christ Himself during the three years of His ministry. That in itself makes the narrative of the coming of the King a divine promise.

The return of the Messiah to earth after His ascension to Heaven was prophesied numerous times in the Old Testament, was extensively covered by Jesus in His

teachings, as well as by the apostles and by Paul. Jesus used some parables to illustrate the nature of His return, but the coming of the King is not a parable or a metaphor, it is truly a divine promise of the return of the Messiah.

Reflection: Do you know how to respond when an unbeliever challenges you about your faith, and specifically about the return of the Messiah?



Prayer: Father God, we thank You for Your Word, which tells us clearly that You will come back for us. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in me and to give me strength. I pray this in the name of Jesus. AMEN

“Prepared a Place for me” by Stirk Stirkland

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTritd7y_hg

WEDNESDAY – The day and hour unknown



Mark 13:32-33 (NIV) *“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.”*

Acts 1:7 (NIV) *He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 (NIV) *Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*

One striking similarity between the time of first Thessalonians and present day reality is that we live in uncertain times. Against the underlying truth in the above-mentioned three scriptures which states that not even Christ Jesus knows when he is coming back again – only Abba Father knows that – it stands to reason that we must always live as if today is our last day on earth, because if that is the case, it represents our last chance to make sure that we are

ready to meet our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection: “How can I be sure that I live as if today is my last day on earth”.

By committing my heart and soul to God, AND that I have committed myself to the body of Christ, AND lastly that I have committed myself, my worth and my witness to the world. We all have to be able to in faith answer this question truthfully.

Prayer: *Abba Father, help me to know whether I truly live as if today is my last day on earth. Holy Father, make me bold so that I can joyously strive towards meeting all three commitments articulated above. I ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN.*

“Jesus” by Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEbQswNB6Wc>

THURSDAY – Are you ready?



Acts 1:7-8 (NIV) *He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Matthew 25:1& 5 *At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ...The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.*

This series on First Thessalonians is called “People of the Light”. Yesterday we saw that after making the commitment to give your life to Jesus Christ, one also has to make a strong commitment to participate in and with the body of Christ, that is the church, but also to share yourself, your worth and your witness with the world. This means

that we must be beacons of light that show through our words, our behaviour and our actions what it means to believe in Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Reflection: How do we lead a life pleasing to God? By doing God’s will – we are called to be people of the light!



Prayer: Dear Father God, help me to understand whether I am ready even if today is my last day on earth. Help me to distinguish clearly between the message of the light and the message of the darkness and give me the strength to always portray myself in such a manner that there could never be any doubt about my being one of the people of the light, and that through this example I can help lead others to the faith. I ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

“King of Kings” by Hillsong Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQl4izxPeNU>

FRIDAY – Be patient



1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NIV) *For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

Acts 1:7&8 (NIV) *He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

A sign at a railway station says "**Waiting Room**", and below it "**No loitering**". Loitering is different from waiting, because to loiter means that you may have no purpose in mind other than to pass the time, whereas while waiting one can be actively building the Kingdom of God.

Thus, for the believer, the sign at the station of life should rather read: "**Do the will of God – and be patient**".

Reflection: Looking at my behaviour, what does it really say about the sign on the door of my waiting room?



Prayer: Dear Father God, I thank you for the wonderful promise of the return of Your Son Jesus Christ, as described by Paul here in the letter to the Thessalonians. Please help me to suppress my impatience because I do not know when the wait will be over, and in everything I do while I wait patiently on You, make me a God-pleaser, and help me to refrain from being a "me-pleaser", a "we-pleaser" and/or a "people-pleaser". I ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

"Waiting here for You" by Christy Nockels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3OEGnH5x8g>