
Words of Truth

Live As Though Jesus Is Coming Today

By: Brian A. Yeager

Scoffers have long downplayed and even have denied the coming of our Savior (II Peter 3:3-4). The surety of the Judgment Day is not comforting to those whom live in disobedience to Christ. On the other hand, for us who are faithful in Christ the return of our Savior and His judging of the world is a source of comfort (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Jesus has not returned to judge the world for nearly two thousand years. Our Lord does not measure time on our standard (II Peter 3:8). To us, nearly two thousand years seems like a very long time. When something is sure to happen, but delayed, it is common that people stop preparing (Ecclesiastes 8:11). We do not want to be those people (Matthew 25:1-13).

Jesus said this: *“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matthew 24:42-51).

I cannot think of a way in which one could possibly state the purpose of this article clearer than what Jesus did in what you just read. Therefore, I am going to focus on some principles that tie into what Jesus taught to further emphasize our preparedness of the return of our Lord. It all starts with the premise that today is the day our Lord could come.

The Today Mentality

The Scriptures have always advised that we should never count on tomorrow (Proverbs 27:1 and James 4:13-15). We could spend all of our time in this life preparing for tomorrow and find that we have foolishly counted on a day that will never come (Luke 12:13-21). We are supposed to be a now and today thinking kind of people (II Corinthians 6:2).

If Jesus came right now, as you are reading this sentence, are you ready to be judged by Him? You know the standard of His judgment will be His word (John 12:48 and Romans 2:16). You know that God has long expected His followers to keep His instructions in preparation of being judged (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). So the question is, are you living today in

full obedience to the will of our Lord? If you are fully obeying Him (James 2:10-12), then you know you are ready to be judged according to the word of the Lord. If you have questions about your salvation, what does that tell you?

If In Doubt About Your Faithfulness Today

Can you know that you are saved? The word of God says you can. Notice: *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”* (I John 5:13). If you are living in action toward God with doubts, that means you are certainly lost (Romans 14:23).

How do you remove those doubts? Before we answer that question, let's remind ourselves of something. While we can know we are saved, we also must remind ourselves that even in righteousness we are scarcely saved (I Peter 4:17-19). Having said that, we can certainly remove doubts of our eternal salvation. In simplicity, we can accomplish such by just doing what our Lord says without omission of anything (Matthew 28:20 and Revelation 22:14).

Now there is a caution here too. There are those who will confidently appear before the Lord thinking they are spiritually right when He will show them they are not (Matthew 7:21-23). We have to be SURE we are doing what is right. We have it revealed to us (I Thessalonians 4:1), we just have to do it (Deuteronomy 5:1, Jeremiah 11:6, Luke 11:28, and James 1:21-27). If today we are doing good, according to God's definition of good, then we are ready today for the Lord to judge us.

Prepared By Presently Doing Good

Consider this: *“Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing”* (Luke 12:40-43).

From what we have studied, the Lord does not save those whom are getting ready to do right. From what we have studied, the Lord does not save those whom are in the process of getting their lives right with Him. What we have seen is that the Lord will reward eternity to those who ARE doing His will when He returns (Romans 2:13).

It is as simple as this: *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation”* (John 5:28-29).

Conclusion

We have to live every day like Jesus is returning this day. His return is not knowable (Matthew 24:35-36). He will come as a thief in the night expecting us to have lived in preparation for His return (II Peter 3:9-14). If you're not ready, get ready NOW!