

## Sermon notes January 22, 2012

### Jesus Is Coming Again! How Shall We Live?

Texts: [Philippians 3:20](#); [2 Timothy 4:6-8](#); [Titus 2:11-14](#)

[Phil. 3:20](#) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

[2 Tim. 4:6-8](#) <sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

[Titus 2:11-14](#) <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

#### **Introduction:**

#### **We Have a Heavenly Citizenship**

“For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus,” ([Phil. 3:20](#)).

We thank God that the Holy Spirit inspired ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)) the writers of the Bible to write in terms that we can understand. Most of us are familiar with the word “citizenship.” We understand that we are citizens of the

United States of America. We are “Americans.” We further understand that this right has many responsibilities and duties as well as privileges. We are to obey the laws of the land.

The Apostle Paul’s use of the word “citizenship” in [Phil 3:20](#) has great importance for us in a spiritual way. Since we are “in Christ,” and therefore a Christian, we have certain responsibilities and privileges.

[2 Timothy 4](#), chronologically is the last book the Apostle Paul wrote. It has been called “*The Last Will & Testament*” of Paul.

This is the second imprisonment of Paul, not to be confused with the first imprisonment in [Acts 28](#). This is in Rome in the reign of Nero, probably around A.D. 67. Paul is facing execution for his faith. As a Roman citizen he will be beheaded instead of crucified.

The Last Will & Testament of Paul (vs. 6-8) Paul tells us he knows his time is short (v. 6). He is not bitter; he knows he has been faithful & that he serves a Lord who is equally faithful.

**2 Tim. 4:6-8,** <sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

In verse 7 Paul recounts his walk for Jesus.

- He says 'I have fought the good fight
- I have finished the course (race)
- I have kept the faith

In verse 8 Paul shares the result, the hope, of a life lived for Jesus and one based on living in expectation of the return of the Lord Jesus.

- Laid up for me, the crown of righteousness
- To be given by Jesus Himself
- Promised to all who live in expectation of Jesus' return

What can we learn from Paul's example:

- Jesus is coming back personally
- Rewards (Crowns) are to be obtained through faithful service.

The Crown of Righteousness, what is the basis of receiving this crown? Believing that Jesus is coming again and living a life of expectation of this fact.

Who gives the crown? The faithful judge, Jesus. Paul had seen many unfaithful and unfair judges.

Who will receive the Crown of Righteousness? All who love the Lord's Coming.

The Lord Jesus is coming back for His Church. This great truth and promise is all over the Word of God. In **John 14:1-4** we read the following <sup>1</sup> "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a

place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

In [Acts 1:11](#), we have the testimony of the angels at the Ascension: “...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.”

In [I Thes. 1:9-10](#) the Apostle Paul commends the church at Thessalonica for their service to the Lord. He recounts in

[I Thes. 1:9](#) their journey from idolatry to serving Jesus. He further states that they were a serving congregation. Since we serve the “living and true God,” Since he could come at any moment—we must be ready at all times—we must be active in His work at all times. We must put our faith into action. We must be seeking the lost and striving to strengthen the saved. Mission work and evangelism does not stop with conversion—the more we learn about Jesus and His Church and the Word of God—we will be mission minded.

Jesus has told us to be waiting and watching for the time he will come back for us. But we must not be idle; we must as the song goes, “we’ll work ‘till Jesus comes.” Some in the New Testament were condemned because they were not active in the Lord’s service while waiting for His coming. That must never be said of us. We will be rescued from the wrath to come ([I Thes. 1:10](#)), so let’s allow Jesus to equip us for service. He has provided much for us if we will only appropriate it. Let’s always seek to reach the lost and strengthen the saved!

In [Titus 2:11-14](#) the Apostle Paul tells us how to live for Jesus while we are waiting for His coming.

**Titus 2:11-14,** <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

“For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all men.” We find these words in [Titus 2:11](#). This is the opening passage to the thoughts in [Titus 2:11-15](#). This passage might be titled “*Christian Living in Expectation of the Return of Jesus.*”

In this passage “grace” is both a person and an action. It is evident to the reader that this verse is talking about the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus. In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son”i” ([Gal. 4:4-5](#)) to redeem mankind. God had promised throughout the Old Testament to send forth the Redeemer prophesied in [Genesis 3:15](#). Jesus came to seek and save the lost ([Luke 19:10](#)); He came to save all mankind ([Romans 5:8](#)).

This grace is also an action. The saving grace of Jesus illustrates His great love for mankind. God so loved the world ([John 3:16](#)). It is in this action that we have the Godhead showing forth this great love towards mankind.

The main crux of the verse is that both of these thoughts in [Titus 2:11](#) bring salvation. There is no salvation outside of Jesus ([John 14:6](#); and [Acts 4:12](#)). Let’s embrace Jesus as

our Savior and Lord and never fail to praise Him and thank Him for His great mercy “in that while we were yet sinners.” He died for us.

What Does It Means to “Wait for His Son from Heaven.” The Apostle Paul commends the Christians in Thessalonica for their faithfulness. He tells them that the news of their faith has spread beyond their home. Other Christians have heard of the commitment to the Lord Jesus. Paul tell us that they were imitators of the Lord. It was not a “bed of roses” for them when they accepted the Lord Jesus and began to follow Him.

They became an example to others, Oh that it could be said of us today that we live lives so close to Jesus that others will want to “conform to the image of the Son of God.” They left a life of idol worship with no hope of salvation and no hope of an eternity outside of the “Lake of Fire.” We are told that they made a complete turn around in their lives and identified with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-10**, 2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and

Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

What does that entail? Waiting for the Lord Jesus in the Scripture means that while we are waiting we are “watching,” and working for Him. We sing a song written by Fanny Crosby, *“Blessed are those whom the Lord finds watching, In His glory they shall share; If He shall come at the dawn or midnight, Will He find us watching there?”* True waiting involves working for the Lord Jesus; not a working to be saved but a working because you are saved. We are saved by grace through faith, in baptism unto good works. Let’s be like the Thessalonians and be a people who live our lives for the Lord so that others see us and glorify God.

**Matthew 5:14-16**, 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.