

Are We Looking for The Lord?

2 Thess. 1:3 – 12

This is a question every believer in Jesus Christ should be asking themselves often. In today's world, in the time which we live, Christians sometimes get to involved, to busy, to forgetful, that they stop thinking about the very things we need to be concerned with. Some Christians allows themselves to believe their life is so busy and involved in things that they sometimes forget that we are supposed to be concerned with the Coming of the Lord (which could happen at any time), or that at any time we could see death and our life would be over. Some Christians just stop thinking about it. God reminds us all of this in **2 Peter 3:4** "*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 the creation.*" We do not need "scoffers", that is false teachers to teach this, it comes natural to us if we get so involved in the things of this world more than the things of God. Do you truly believe that Jesus could come today? Do you give this much thought during the week? And, are you truly prepared for the Lord's return, or are you to busy and to involved to care?

When the Lord returns what where will He find your heart, looking or ignoring Him? Will He find a true and faithful servant? Will He find a heart truly waiting and watching for Him?

God reminds us in **Luke 12:40** "***Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.***"

This is a question the Lord Jesus Himself asked, **Luke 18:7 - 8** "*And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? (8) I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, **shall he find faith on the earth?***" The word "avenge" means – to re-venge or to have vengeance on His own people. God is not punishing us, or delaying for the purpose of making us lack in faith or to doubt, He has an ordained, predetermined time and that day must get here first. But when the Lord returns, will He find faith on the earth, will His people be faithfully waiting on Him, or will many be to involved in the things of the earth?

A. We cannot allow persecutions and tribulations to turn our hearts.

1. Our preparation for the Lord's return is to be watchful, persecutions and tribulations are truly a joyful thing for the Believer. Paul wrote in verse 4 of our text, *"So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:"*
2. We do not need to listen to Satan nor his scoffers, persecutions and tribulations in our life are not bad, they do not mean that God does not love us or is not blessing us. **1 Thessalonians 3:3 - 4** *"That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. (4) For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know."*

B. Persecutions and Tribulations are a natural part of a Believers life.

1. **2 Thess. 1:6** *"Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;"* God is not "avenging" us, He is building our faith. Our eyes and heart must remain on the Lord's return.
2. It is God who will *"recompense tribulation to them that trouble you"* We just need to understand that it is our appointment in life to suffer for the Lord, and not allow such things to remove us from our responsibility to the Lord. We must remain focused on the Lord's work and return.
3. Suffering for the Lord is our badge of honor for Him. He is coming and we must all be ready, we may cry and pray, but never forget. **Revelation 6:10** *"And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"*

C. Jesus said, He is coming, first to receive us and second to avenge us.

1. **2 Thess 1:10** *"When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."* He will shine with the glory of God in all of the heavens, what an event this will be.
2. **1 Corinthians 15:52** *"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."* If there is a "Last Trumpet" then there must be more than one.
3. **1 Thessalonians 4:16 - 17** *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in*

Christ shall rise first: (17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” What a glorious time this will be, the Lord Jesus shall descend from heaven with a “*voice of the archangel*” and we that are saved shall “*be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*”

4. But not all who are here. Many will be left to suffer God’s wrath in tribulation. Not all that call Him Lord will He take because they believe amiss.
5. God will avenge us after we are gone, wrath and destruction is their path ahead for them.

D. Know your election is true.

1. **1 Thessalonians 1:4** “*Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.*” Know what God has chosen for your life and live it.
 2. Our life is all about serving God and not self, trusting God and not self, we are irrelevant unless the Lord makes us relevant.
 3. There is a song that reads like this,
“O land of rest, for thee I sigh!
When will the moment come
When I shall lay my armor by
And dwell in peace at home?
Refrain: We’ll work till Jesus comes,
We’ll work till Jesus comes,
We’ll work till Jesus comes,
And we’ll be gathered home.
4. Knowing our election of God is doing what God has elected us too. After Jesus returns it is too late. **Matthew 24:42 – 44** “*Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. (43) 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. (44) Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*”

5. Do we doubt, do we doubt just a little, if we do than we doubt and are not looking for Jesus. **Matt. 26:41** *“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*
6. **Mark 13:32-37** *“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”*