

Being Ready for the Coming of the Lord

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Amos 5:18-20

Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

This is the question: Are you ready? What is your answer? Is "Well, I hope so!" your answer?

That's not good enough. Are you ready? Your answer should be a definite YES.

So many scorn and make a light thing out of the coming of the Lord. They act as though it will never come to pass. But soon they will find out they were sadly mistaken.

A Time for Preparation

I Thessalonians 5:2

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

We don't know the day or the hour of our Lord's return, but we do know that it will be soon and that it will catch many unawares.

Revelation 22:20

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Yes, the Lord is coming, but there is no reason for Him to catch you unaware. Are you ready to meet Him at His coming? If you are not sure, then take time to get ready.

Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! This is going to be a day of trouble and sorrow for those who have rejected Jesus Christ, and for those who have served Him half-heartedly.

Joel 1:15

Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

To those who are ready, having been washed in the blood of Jesus, living for Him each moment, it will be a day of joy and blessing.

But to those who are found wanting, it will be a day of trouble and anguish. It will be a day of destruction and grief. Yes, it will be a horrible day.

I 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: 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.

For those who are ready it will be a glorious day. Yes, if you're ready and watching for His coming it will be a wonderful day. But you've got to live this life each and every day. You can't pretend to be a Christian on Sunday, and then live like the world the rest of the week.

No, you have to be consistent in your experience. You have to live the Christian life seven days a week, 365 days a year. You need to be sure you're ready: for it will be a horrible day for you to face if you're not.

Don't Procrastinate

Zephaniah 1:7

Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God: for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, He hath bid His guests.

The Lord is bidding you to come. He is saying, "Come unto Me while there is time." Soon it will be too late. Yes, give your heart to Him now while it is day. Today is the day of salvation—tomorrow may be too late.

Revelation 6:12

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood

Realizing that such a day is really going to come should put the fear of God in your heart and soul.

Revelation 6:13,14

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

The weather forecasters will certainly be busy trying to figure out what is going on. Today people get excited and fearful when a hurricane is predicted. What will it be like in this day spoken of here in Revelation?

The Wages of Sin

Revelation 6:15-17

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

When the Church goes up, God's wrath will come down without mixture. You don't want to be here in that day. Everybody, great and small, will be crying out for the rocks and mountains to fall on them so that they might hide from God's wrath.

Oh, you don't want to miss the rapture and be left behind to face this day—or, do you?

Play around a bit longer and you'll be sure to miss the rapture. Yes, hypocrites, play church a little longer. Go home from church each Sunday to do your devilish deeds the rest of the week. Go home to commit fornication and adultery. Go home, and tell some more lies.

John 14:30

Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me.

The prince of this world has a part in the lives of many of those who profess to be Christians. Just because someone calls upon the name of the Lord doesn't mean anything unless they follow on to serve Him in sincerity and in truth. They may have called on the name of the Lord to please people, but it won't do a thing for them unless they meant it from the depths of their heart.

II Corinthians 6:17

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you

If you call on the Lord and then turn around to continue living in sin, you only wasted your words. There's more to salvation than just shedding a few tears, just saying a few words. You must see yourself as a sinner in need of the Saviour, and turn to Him in true repentance.

Now, you're going to have to answer to God. Are you ready? Are you really ready?

Philippians 2:12b

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Each of us must give an account of our lives. If you're not sure whether you're ready or not—what is in the way? What makes you suspect that you might not be ready? Well, get it out of the way!

Matthew 15:8

This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me.

Deliverance comes when you not only hate the consequences of sin, but hate the sin itself. Too often, there's still a love for sin in the hearts of those who profess to be saved. Their hearts aren't sold out to the Lord.

I Thessalonians 5:9

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Those who receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour aren't appointed unto the wrath of God. They have nothing to fear. But they are exhorted to watch and pray, lest they fall into temptation and lose out in the end (see Matthew 26:41).

I Corinthians 10:12

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Don't boast that you never could fall. The only way you can keep victory is by walking in the Spirit each day, every minute of the day.

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

We need to be serious about our walk with the Lord. It means life or death: depending upon whether we accept or reject the Word and what it tells us to do and not do.

Do you want life? Or do you want death? Do you want joy and peace? Or do you want the terror that awaits those who reject Jesus Christ?

Revelation 9:3-5

And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

A scorpion bite is a very painful thing. Those who are left behind to face the wrath of God will feel the effects of these bites for five long months. This may sound like a fairy tale—but it's not. It is going to happen just as it is recorded in the Word of God. What God has spoken will surely come to pass.

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?

You can either choose life, or you can choose death. It's completely up to you. The Lord offers you the free gift of salvation, but you have to take it if you want to have it. He won't force it on you.

Revelation 9:6

And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

Imagine trying to kill yourself, only to find that no matter how hard you try, you just can't do it. You'll have to endure all of the pain and terror of those days, for there will be no way to escape.

Revelation 9:7-10

And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

What a terrible time! Oh, don't miss the coming of Jesus for His bride. Don't put off the day of salvation. Don't play around with the things of God.

Don't Let Sin Harden Your Heart

Matthew 22:1-3

And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a

certain king, which made a marriage for his son, and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

"...and they would not come!" God speaks to you, but you refuse to come. How many times have you resisted when you knew God was dealing with you? One day, unless you get down to business, you will find you have spurned once too often!

Matthew 22:4,5

Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

Many of you have had God deal with you time after time, yet you continue to insist on going your own way. There's no promise that you'll be alive tomorrow to have another chance. Many die in accidents at an early age, and many of them weren't ready, having put off the day of salvation one time too many.

How do you live when you're not in church? Can people tell that you're a Christian? Or do you live a different life the rest of the week?

Jesus sees you. Nothing is hid from His eyes. He knows where you live. He knows what you're doing each and every moment. And one day He will bring it out in the open.

People get so wrapped up in their own ambitions and pleasures that they have no time for God. Our generation is a pleasure loving generation.

Why are the churches so empty during the summer months? They're empty because of pleasures. The Bible says that people will be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God in the last days (see II Timothy 3:4).

If people had a greater love for God than for self, they'd put Him first. But their minds are all taken up with pleasures. They have plenty of time for fun and games, but can't seem to find any time to enjoy the presence of the Lord.

You can continue to go your own way, seeking out pleasures—but each of those pleasures is a hook in your jaw. Be careful, or those pleasures will draw you completely away from God. In that day, you'll be so busy seeking pleasures that you'll be caught unawares. You won't be ready. You'll find yourself left behind to face the wrath of God.

Are Your Garments Spotless?

Matthew 22:6-8

And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Look at that! God called over and over, but you wouldn't listen. After all, "I'm too busy. I might consider it later on, but let me have a good time first."

Many today think they're saved, yet aren't ready because they are involved in sin. You can't serve Jesus and sin at the same time.

Oh, they might go to church, but they are destined for eternal flames, unless they turn to Jesus in true repentance, putting away their vile sins. The only way they can find deliverance is to hate what they're doing, to see it for what it is: sin.

Are you ready? Not if you're bound by sin. You need to crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts. After your flesh continues to yield to sin time after time, the devil takes over. Then you are driven day and night to go deeper and deeper into sin.

Romans 13:11

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Don't let the devil put a spiritual drowsiness upon you. Rise up, and put on the Lord Jesus Christ—and make no provision for the flesh to satisfy its lusts.