

Studies in Christianity

S#1.

Private Worship #9

Worshipping the God We Await

S#2.

Text : **John 14: 1-6 ; I Thes. 4: 13-18 ; II Thes. 1: 6-10**

A. We have been looking at the time we spend alone together with the Lord.

1. We observed that such alone time is necessary for relationship building.
 - a. *We have family time together with the kids, but also have to have alone time with our spouse in order to build and maintain our relationship with him/her.*
 - b. Likewise, we need alone time to build and maintain our relationship with God.
2. Our alone time with God is very personal and individualized.
 - a. Unlike the assembly of the church, there are no guidelines for private worship.
 - b. Our current lessons have been suggested topics for our meditation.

B. Our previous lesson dealt with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

I Cor. 15: 13 – But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; **14** and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. **15** Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

S#3.

1. We observed the resurrection to be the cornerstone of Christianity.
2. Jesus went to great effort to demonstrate that His resurrection was real.
 - a. He made sure His disciples knew the tomb was empty.
 - b. He required His disciples to handle Him after the resurrection.
 - c. He made at least 10 different appearances.
3. He spent time with enough people to establish it as historical fact.
4. We finished by observing that it was significant to us.

C. This lesson will focus on the return of Jesus.

S#4.

1. His return is sure to happen.
2. No one knows when His coming will occur.
3. God does not give hints about His secret things.
4. We must live ready for Christ's return.

I. Jesus promised that He would return to redeem us for His own.**S#5.****A. Jesus promised He would return even before He left.**

John 14: 2 – In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** 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. **S#6.**

B. God promised the return of Jesus.

Tit. 1: 2 – ... in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, **3** but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior, ... **S#7.**

C. The angels foretold of the return of Jesus.

Acts : 1: 10 – And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. **11** They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." **S#8.**

D. The Apostles preached the second coming as a motivation for us.

II Thes. 1: 6 – For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, **7** and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed. **S#9.**

E. The return (*second coming*) of Christ is the most often mentioned doctrine.

1. It is so often repeated because it is such an important event to us.
2. It is the day every promise will be fulfilled.

II. Though we are certain that day will come, no one knows when it will be.**S#10.****A. Radio, TV, and Facebook preachers love to preach about His return.**

1. Some claim to have special revelation ... through scriptures or extra-biblical.
2. Some claim to read the "*signs of the time.*"

3. Some have led many astray by predicting a date for Christ's return.
 - a. Many quit their jobs and ran up significant debt .. "*We'll never have to repay...*"
 - b. Some gathered on mountain tops and roof tops to await His arrival,
 - c. In 1973 my next door neighbor tried to convince me,

B. God has not revealed the day or even the era when Jesus will return.

1. **Matt. 24: 36** – But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. S#11.

2. If Jesus does not know, who are we to know ?

Mark 13: 35 – Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — **36** in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. **37** "What I say to you I say to all, ' Be on the alert!'" S#12.

3. God keeps some things secret from us (*Knows how to keep secret.*)

- c. **Deut. 29: 29** – The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. S#13.

- b. The angel clearly told the Apostles that God doesn't want us to know.

Acts 1: 7- He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

4. Therefore, to try to discover what God does not want known is rebellion.

- a. Lot's wife tried to see what God did not want seen.

- b. Some of the things revealed by God require some training to understand.

II Pet. 3: 15b – ... just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, **16** as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. S#14.

- c. *God makes what HE wants know clear to honest hearts who will study.*

III. God has a reason for wanting the day of His return kept secret.

S#15.

A. Man knew what day God will judge, sinners would repent the day before.

B. How foolish (*human*) it would have been for God to leave hints.

1. Men search for clues about the second coming.
2. Some work out formulas to predict what God did not.

C. God says the second coming will come on a “run-of-the-mill” day.

1. People will doubt because life goes on as is always has.
 - a. **II Pet. 3: 4** – ... saying, " Where is the promise of His coming? S#16.
For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."
 - b. **Matt. 24 : 38** – For as in those days before the flood they were eating S#17.
and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **39** and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
2. Wars and rumors, volcanos and earthquakes, etc. ... are part of life.
(Context = the destruction of Jerusalem)

C. God wants the second coming to arrive as a surprise.

1. The second coming will be as unexpected as a sneak thief.

I Thes. 5: 2 – For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will S#18.
come just like a thief in the night. **3** While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.
2. There will be no escaping His coming in judgment.
 - a. **II Pet. 3: 10** – But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the S#19.
heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.
 - b. All that for which men lusted will be burned out of existence.
 - c. Scientists speculated about what would happen if we blew off the atmosphere.
3. All of the strongholds and safe spaces will be gone; they will have to face God.

IV. God wants His arrival to be unexpected in order to motivate His followers. S#20.

A. Jesus told parables with a message that we should be ready for His return.

1. The parable of the talents (Matt. 25: 14-30)
2. The parable of the 10 virgins (Matt. 25: 13)
3. The rich man and Lazarus (Luke 12: 16-21)

B. He gives direct admonitions to be ready.

1. **Luke 12: 39** – But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had S#21.
known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. **40** " You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."

2. The 10 virgins were excluded because they were not prepared.

Matt. 25: 10 – Later the other virgins also came, saying, ' Lord, lord, open S#22.
up for us.' **12** But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'
13 Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

CONCLUSION :

A. About the return of Jesus we have observed :

1. His return is sure to happen.
2. No one knows when His coming will occur.
3. God does not gives hints about His secret things.
4. We must live ready for Christ's return.

B. Since we do not know when He will appear, we must stay ready for Him.

C. If you knew Jesus was coming tomorrow, how would your life be different ?

D. Are you in Christ ? If not ...

E. If you were to hear the trumpet of God and the voice of the arch angel would it cause you to rejoice ?

Lesson Text :**John 14: 1-6**

1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** "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. **4** "And you know the way where I am going." **5** Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" **6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

I Thessalonians 4: 13-18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

II Thessalonians 1: 6-10

6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, **7** and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed.