

Studies in Christianity Private Worship #10

S#1.

Worshipping While We Wait

S#2.

Text : Hebrews 6: 9-20 ; I Thes. 5: 1-11

A. 20 yrs in a foreign country taught me that long-term relationships are hard.

1. No matter how much you love someone, relationship requires contact.
2. Video phones help now days, **but** they do not provide physical contact.
3. Apart or together, everyone's life goes on independently of those far away.

B. Christians maintain the ultimate long distance relationship.

1. We must form and maintain a relationship with a Lord we've never met.
2. We do it without a cell phone or even a picture.
3. This is why we need time set aside each day to work on that relationship.

C. However, if we set aside time each day for the same activity, it can be repetitive.

1. Avoiding repetitiveness requires thought and effort.
2. Personal worship must be more than reading out of a devotional book & praying.
3. **THUS**, we've been looking at some themes for personal worshipping.

D. Our previous lesson :

S#3.

1. The return of Jesus 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.

E. This lesson will concentrate on our wait for Jesus' return.

S#4.

1. Becoming a Christian involves waiting for Jesus.
2. The wait has been long, but could end at any moment,
3. We Christians live in a state of expectation.
4. We pray for the day of our victory to come soon.

I. Becoming a Christian involves waiting for Jesus to return.**S#5.****A. The coming of Jesus opens the gateway to Heaven.**

1. **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.**
2. The promise of Heaven includes the coming of Jesus.
3. If one cannot trust the coming of the Lord, how can he trust Heaven is real.

B. The story told in the N.T. by the Apostles included the coming of Christ.

1. The converts understood they would be worshipping an absentee savior.
I Thes. 1: 9-10 – For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, **10** and to wait for His Son from Heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come. **S#7.**
2. Their faith in Him motivated them to conduct their lives in anticipation.
I Thes. 5:23 – Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **S#8.**
24 Faithful is who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
3. They wanted their lives to be in order when Jesus came ... in their time.
4. This was the motivation for 4:13ff
I Thes 4 : 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. **S#9.**

C. When I took the kids to Disney World in Florida they had to be pre-warned.

1. You are going to be hot and get very tired before we leave – suck it up tickets \$
2. You have to warn us ahead of time so we can get to a restroom..
3. You will spend a LOT more time waiting in line than riding rides so choose wisely.
4. **However,** when they were on the ride, the wait time was forgotten.
Rom. 8: 18 – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not **S#10.**
worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

D. As Christians we live in joyous expectation of the return of our King to take us home to enjoy our ultimate victory.

II. The wait has been long, but it could end at any moment.**S#11.****A. Some early disciples thought the wait for Jesus would be brief.**

1. Modern preterists teach that Jesus has already returned and the final judgment is past.
2. Some in the N.T. believed that the second coming would not be long.
 - a. **Rom. 16: 19** – For the report of your obedience has reached to all; **S#12.**
therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. **20** The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
 - b. Why would an apostle teach something he knew to be false?
 - c. He (Paul) obviously thought Jesus would come in his lifetime. –

C. James, the Lord's Brother, taught that the second coming was near.

1. **James 5: 7** – Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. **S#13.**
The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains . **8** You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
2. The idea was to keep the disciples anticipating Christ's return.
3. It's like encouraging little children to wait for Christmas, a birth day, etc.

C. Peter warned that some will become so impatient they will doubt His coming.

1. **II Pet. 3: 3** – Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come **S#14.**
with their mocking, following after their own lusts, **4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."
2. MANY today demonstrate that same attitude by the way they live.
3. All who stop looking forward to the coming of the Lord become apathetic.
 - a. They lose their sense of urgency in doing good, especially in evangelizing.
 - b. They begin to think about God less often.
 - c. Thoughts of Heaven are replaced by this life.

D. When will the Lord come back to take us home?

1. The promise of Jesus is **STILL** valid today.
John 14: 1 – Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also **S#15.**
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. "
2. When will Jesus come for you? When your heart stops, your day is here.

III. The Christian lives in a state of expectancy.**S#16.**

A. Some of you setting here are asking yours, “What’s the big deal? It’s already been 2000 years, why should I think it will be soon?”

S#17.

1. Anticipation is the attitude God wants you to have.
2. Having the right attitude affects to way you live.
3. Anticipation will motivate preparedness.

B. Waiting together for our Lord is a Christian activity / duty.

1. **I Thes. 1: 9** – For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, **10** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

S#18.

2. Christians are instructed to be waiting for the return of Jesus.

Tit. 2: 11 – For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

S#19.

C. We wait with anticipation of receiving our estate in Heaven.

1. In **John 14** Jesus promised to prepare a place for us.
2. That which Jesus promised is complete and waiting for our arrival.
 - a. **I Pet. 1: 3** – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
 - b. Preserved and reserved

S#20.

D. The day the Lord returns will be a victory party for the saints.

S#21.

1. The last enemy of God and of man will face his ultimate defeat.
I Cor. 15: 25 – For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. **26** The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

2. We will receive our new bodies when Jesus comes back.

I Cor. 15: 51 – Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

S#22.

IV. We are to pray that His coming will be soon.**S#23.****A. We wait but we wait eager for the day to arrive.**

1. We are all eager for the day we get our new bodies.

Phil. 3: 20 – For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly **S#24.**
wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body
 of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the
 exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

2. We eagerly await Him because He will take with Him into eternal salvation.

Heb. 9: 28 – So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of **S#25.**
 many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference
 to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

3. Because of Christ, Christians will be blameless before God.

I Cor. 1: 6 – ...even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, **S#26.**
7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation
of our Lord Jesus Christ, **8** who will also confirm you to the end,
 blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

B. It is only logical to long for the return of our Savior

1. It will mark the end of sickness, aging and pain.

II Cor. 5: 1 – For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn **S#27.**
 down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands,
 eternal in the heavens.

2. The life waiting on us is much better than anything on earth.

Rom. 8: 18 – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not **S#28.**
worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the
 revealing of the sons of God.

C. We should pray for the return of our Savior.

1. May we share the attitude of the Apostle Paul.

Rom. 3: 11 – Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you **S#29.**
 to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we
believed. **12** The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let
 us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

2. The book of the Revelation ends with this promise and prayer.

Rev. 22:20 – He who testifies to these things says,
 "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

D. May our lives and our worship be directed by the desire for the Lord's return.

Lesson Text :**I Thessalonians 5: 1-11**

5: 1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will 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. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Hebrews 6: 9-20

9 But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. 10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you." 15 And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. 16 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.