

THE LORD'S RETURN

Message 9

The Shining and Warning of the Prophetic Word Made More Firm and the Believers' Attitude toward the Coming of Christ

Scripture Reading: 2 Pet. 1:19; Dan. 9:27; Jer. 17:5-8; Rom. 13:12; Psa. 119:105, 130; Matt. 24:42-44; Luke 21:34-36; Rev. 3:10; Rom. 15:4; Rev. 2:26, 28; 2 Tim. 4:8; Phil. 3:20; Rev. 22:20; Matt. 25:13, 4; Luke 17:32

I. The prophetic word of the Scripture, as the shining lamp to the believers, conveys spiritual light to shine in their darkness, guiding them to enter into a bright day until the day of the Lord's appearing—2 Pet. 1:19:

- A. The time is short; by studying the prophecies in the Bible and checking with the world situation today, we know that the day of the Lord's coming is very near and that the last week is approaching—Dan. 9:27.
- B. The crucial matter today is this: we do not want to bury ourselves in the world but put ourselves in the Lord's hand; we should know that once we bury ourselves in the world and become rooted in it, it will not be easy to be uprooted—Jer. 17:5-8.
- C. In the few remaining days, we should get ourselves ready; let us be those who love and serve the Lord, who are revived and are overcoming every day, and who let the world go and are waiting with all our heart for the Lord's coming.

II. The shining and warning of the prophetic word made more firm to us today—2 Pet. 1:19:

- A. Peter likens the word of prophecy in the Scripture to a lamp shining in a dark place:
 - 1. This age is a dark place in the dark night, and all the people of the world are moving and acting in darkness—Rom. 13:12.
 - 2. The shining of the prophetic word in the dark age of today is a shining lamp to the believers, conveying spiritual light to shine in their darkness (not merely knowledge in letters for mental apprehension)—Psa. 119:105, 130.
 - 3. The shining of the prophetic word in this dark age is guiding the believers to enter into a bright day, even to pass through the dark night until the day of the Lord's appearing dawns and the morning star rises in their hearts.
- B. The prophetic word made more firm is also a warning word to the believers:
 - 1. Because of the prophetic word, the Lord warns us to watch; in Matthew 24:42 the Lord says, "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes."
 - 2. In Luke 21:34 the Lord warns us to take heed to ourselves that our hearts may not be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and anxieties of life, and that day come upon us suddenly as a snare.
 - 3. We need to be watchful, at every time beseeching, that we may prevail to escape all the things which are about to take place and to stand before Christ—Luke 21:36.
 - 4. We need to keep the word of Christ's endurance; every word that the Lord has spoken in the Bible is a word of endurance; to keep the word of His endurance, we must suffer His rejection and persecution—Rev. 3:10; Rom. 15:4.
 - 5. We need to overcome and keep the Lord's works until the end; the Lord's works are the things the Lord has accomplished and is doing; if we keep the Lord's works until the end, He will be the morning star to us at His appearing—Rev. 2:26, 28.

III. The believers' attitude toward the coming of Christ:

- A. Every "today" that we have is truly the Lord's grace; as long as we have today, and as long as we still have breath, we should love the Lord and His appearing, await the

Lord's coming, and always take His coming as an encouragement—2 Tim. 4:8; Phil. 3:20; Rev. 22:20.

- B. When the Lord comes, He will come secretly as a thief to those who love Him, and will steal them away as His treasures and bring them into His presence in the heavens; hence, we need to watch and be ready—Matt. 24:42-44; 25:13:
 - 1. If we desire to be raptured, first we must be filled with the heavenly breath and have oil in our vessels—25:4.
 - 2. If we are rooted on the earth and occupied daily with the anxieties of this life and with earthly pleasures, we will not be raptured at that time; we should remember Lot's wife—Luke 17:32.
- C. The Lord also reminded us to take heed to ourselves and to be watchful, at every time beseeching, lest our hearts be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and anxieties of life, and that the day of the great tribulation come upon us suddenly as a snare; for it will come in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth—21:34-36:
 - 1. We should guard our hearts and give all the room to the Lord that we may prevail to escape all these things and to stand before the Son of Man—vv. 34-36; cf. Rev. 12:5-6.
 - 2. To attain maturity is not an overnight matter; therefore, for His coming we must prepare ourselves, love Him, and grow in Him, that at His appearing we may be mature to be raptured and receive the reward.