

“Ready or Not... Here I Come!”

(1 Thessalonians 4)

Summary: Preparing for Christ’s Second Coming

I. Paul’s teaching to living a God-pleasing life: (vv 1-12)

1. Pursue _____ in your lifestyle. (vv 3-8)
2. Be a positive _____ of others. (vv 9-12)
(1 Peter 4:8)
3. _____ one another. (v. 9; John 13:34-35; Matt 22:36-40)
 - Serve (minister) one to another. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
4. Lead a _____ life. (v11) – “mind your own business!”
5. Lead a good _____ life. (v 12; 1 Peter 2:12, 15)

II. Be _____! Christ is coming again! (vv 13-18)

1. **REVELATION** – we have God’s Word (v 15) (7,000 promises!)
2. **HOPE** (v 13) – (Hebrews 11:1)

“The Christian doctrine of resurrection assures us that death is not the end. The body goes to sleep, but the soul goes to be with the Lord. (Phil 1:20-24) (*“Absent from the body, present with the Lord”* – 2 Cor 5:8). When the Lord returns He will bring your soul with Him, will raise your body in glory, and will unite body and soul into one being to share His glory forever.” (Warren Weirsbe)

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.” (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

III. The Second Coming: Two Things to avoid and Two Things to DO. “History” is “His-story”

1. Don't _____ or _____.
(1 Thess 5:1-2; Matthew 24:36)
2. Don't be _____ or _____.
(v 18)
3. DO focus on _____ one another. (vv 17-18)
4. DO be _____, God is.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. - 2 Peter 3:9

We all have GOOD MOMENTS in life. But none compares to the BEST moment of all. When we open our eyes after closing them HERE for the last time, when we open our eyes in HEAVEN ... and look all around and see the beauty ... and then see Jesus Christ! (I can only imagine!)

“If you could see the person next to you like they are going to look in their glorified body, you would be tempted to fall on your knees and worship them.” (CS Lewis)

4:16-18 (I wonder what be His “loud command” might be?)

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. - John 1:12

Answers to Message Notes:

PURITY, INFLUENCE, LOVE, QUIET, DAILY, ENCOURAGED,
PREDICT, DEVISIVE, ARGUMENTATIVE, ENOURAGING, PATIENT