

Being Prepared for Christ's Return

Meeting 1 – The Coming of God's Kingdom

- I. The signs of time show Christ's second coming is imminent (Rom. 13:11-14)
 - A. End of an era – democracy (Dan. 2:41-45)
 - B. Days of Noah and Lot (Matt 24:37; Luke 17:28)
 - C. Great sign in heaven (Rev. 12:1-2, 5)
 - D. Regarding Israel (Mark 13:28-31; Luke 21:24; Dan 9:27)
 - E. Lawlessness and deep darkness (2 Thess. 2:7-12; Is. 59:14-21; 60:1-3)
- II. Accomplishing God's purpose – the kingdom of heaven
 - A. God's kingdom of righteousness – Zion (Heb. 12:22-23)
 1. The city of the great King (Ps. 48:1-2)
 2. The throne of God (Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 43:7)
 3. House of prayer (Is. 56:7; Matt. 21:13)
 4. Temple of the true worship (1 Pet. 2:5)
 - B. Christ – the faithful servant
 1. Fulfilled all of God's righteous requirement
 2. The Captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:10)
 3. The great High Priest (Heb. 7:24-26)
 - C. The goal for God's people
 1. The bride/wife of Christ (Rev. 19:7-9)
 2. Kings and priest in the coming 1,000 years millennial kingdom (Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10; 20:6)
 3. Inherit the kingdom of God (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27)
- III. Our preparation – to live Christ and to serve the Father (Gal. 2:20; 1 Cor. 15:10)
 - A. Christians are all servants (Matt. 24:45-50; 25:14, 21, 26; John 15:20; Rom. 7:6; Col. 3:24; Heb. 12:28, 13:10)

- B. The Lord assesses what we do (Rev. 2:2-3, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15)
 - 1. Hates the works of the Nicolaitans (Rev. 2:6, 15)
 - 2. Preaching for profit (Rev. 2:14)
 - 3. False prophets leading God's people astray (Rev. 2:2)
 - 4. Each man doing what is right in his own eyes (Deut. 12:8)
- C. Doing the will of the Father (Matt. 7:21-23)
 - 1. The holy and royal priesthood (John 4:23-24; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Deut. 12:2-8)
 - 2. In everything we do to gain Christ (Col. 3:17; Phil. 3:8)
 - 3. In our daily life (Phil. 1:21; Col. 3:18-23; Eph. 5:22-24, 33; 6:1-9; 1 Thess. 5:16-24)
 - 4. In the house of God (Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Cor. 3:12-15)
 - 5. Serving God with reverence and godly fear (Heb. 12:28)
- D. Judgment before God (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:9-11; 1 Pet. 4:17; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Meeting 2 – The first love – for God and Zion

(Rev. 2:4; 2 Kings 17:32-33, 41; 2 Tim. 3:2-3)

- I. Meaning of the first (best) love
 - A. The first commandment and most important (Deut. 6:5)
 - B. The first love is the best love (John 12:3-7; Luke 10:38-40)
 - C. God deserves it (Matt. 22:37)
- II. How do we sense we are losing our first love?
 - A. God is light and God is love (1 John 1:6)
 - B. Love for God and saints is a strong motivator (1 John 4:20, 21)
 - C. Priorities begin to change – we make excuses for everything (Luke 14:18-20)

- D. Our speaking becomes cold
 - E. When our first love is gone everything become forms and rituals (Rom. 12:9)
 - F. We begin to deny Christ and the saints (Rev. 3:8)
- III. How do we gain back the first (best) love?
- A. There is no fear in love (1 John 4:17-18)
 - B. We must treasure this love (1 Cor. 13:1-3, 8, 13)
 - C. This is the best ingredient to bring out the flavor in our “cooking” (Gal. 5:6)
 - D. Be zealous (Rev. 3:19)
 - E. Zeal for Zion (Zech. 8:2; John 2:13-17; Ps. 69:9)

Meeting 3 – Knowing the Enemy’s Tactics

(Rev 2:9-10; Matt 4:1-11; 2Cor 2:11 Zech 3:1-5)

- I. Knowing the enemy
 - A. Our Christian life seems difficult because there is an enemy trying to stop us from achieving the goal (Rev. 12:10; 2 Cor. 2:10-11)
 - B. Father of lies, murderer, tempter (John 8:44-45)
 - C. Need to realize that Satan causes us to fall, and keep us far from God (John 10:10)
- II. Knowing the devices of Satan
 - A. He ensnares us with worldliness, even our necessities (Matt. 4:5-7)
 - B. Attacks not only from the outside and but from the inside (Eph. 6:14-16)
 - C. Twists the truth – Satan also knows the word (Matt. 4:6)
 - D. Satan accuses us all the time (Rev. 12:10)
- III. How do we overcome Satan?
 - A. We overcome Satan by the blood and the word of our testimony (Rev. 12:11)
 - B. We must be quick to get back to our feet (Prov. 24:16)

- C. We must learn also to forgive others
(2 Cor. 2:11; Matt. 6:12; Heb. 12:15)
- D. We have the King of kings on our side – the enemy under
His feet (Rom. 16:20)
- E. We have access to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16)
- F. He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world
(1 John 4:4)
- G. Don't be afraid of the enemy! (Luke 12:32)

Meeting 4 – Maturity of Our Christian Life

- I. Only firstfruits will be taken (Rev. 14:4)
 - A. Faithful servants (Matt. 25:23)
 - B. Remember Lot's wife (Luke 17:32)
- II. Rebellious Christians cannot enter the kingdom
(Heb. 3:11, 4:3, 4:5)
 - A. Selling the birthright (Heb. 12:16)
 - B. Carnal (fleshly) man - (1 Cor. 3:1-4)
- III. Discernment (Rev. 2:2; Heb. 5:14; Eph. 6:13-14)
- IV. Not wavering (Heb. 10:23)
- V. Discipline (Heb. 12:5,6)
 - A. Paying the price to be a disciple (Luke 14:25-33;
Rev 3:18; 2:10; 12:11)
 - B. Suffering as training (Acts 14:22; Ps. 119:71;
Heb. 13:11-14)
- VI. Having an increasingly clearer revelation of the goal
(Phil. 3:15; 2 Pet. 3:13)
- VII. Lukewarm, complacency, religion, pride, etc. will stop our
maturing (Rev 3:15-18)
- VIII. Concern for God's goals over our own

Meeting 5 – Church Is Needed for Our Growth

- I. We cannot mature without the Church
 - A. Assembling together as we see the day approaching (Heb. 10:25)
 - B. Joined and knit together - mutual supply (Eph. 4:16)
 - C. Knowing Christ with the saints (Eph. 3:18)
- II. Preparation of Bride (Rev. 19:7-9)
 - A. Spotless and without wrinkle (Eph. 5:25-27)
 - B. Built without human hands (Heb. 9:11)
 - C. Heavenly, not earthly (Heb. 12:22-23)
- III. The Church – to manifest God’s wisdom and glory (Eph. 3:10)
- IV. The work of ministry verses deeds and doctrines of the Nicolaitans (Eph. 4:11-12; Rev. 2:6, 15)
- V. Built with gold, silver, precious stones (1 Cor. 3: 12-15)
- VI. True worship results in change and transformation, it’s not for stimulating good feelings, ease your conscience, superstition, keeping traditions (John 4:23-24)

Meeting 6 – Denial of the Self

(Matt. 16:21-27; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23-26)

- I. After the fall, the soul of man became the self
 - A. Becoming one with Satan to hinder Gods purpose
 - B. The natural man – the soul life
 - 1. Cannot receive or know the things of God
 - 2. Mindful only of the things of man
 - 3. Proud and complacent (Rev. 3:14-17)
 - C. The old man is corrupt and full of deceitful lust (Eph. 4:22)
 - D. Saving our soul life today will cause us to lose it in the coming kingdom age
 - E. Needs salvation and transformation to qualify us to reign with Him in His Kingdom (1 Pet. 1:9; 2 Cor. 3:15-16)

- II. Denying the self and losing our soul life to live Christ
 - A. Through baptism – our old man is crucified (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20)
 - B. Carrying our cross daily – experience His death daily (2 Cor. 4:11; 1 Cor.15:10)
 - C. Putting off the old man and putting on the new man (Eph. 4:22)
 - D. To be renewed in our mind (Rom 12:1-2; Eph. 4:23)
 - E. Suffering the loss of all things (all that the world has to offer) to gain Christ (Phil. 3:8)
 - F. Willing to suffer persecution and reproach for Christ (1 Tim. 4:10; Heb. 11:26)
 - G. Not compromising with the world like Antipas (Rev. 2:13)
 - H. Willing to make sacrifice for God and the His kingdom and not to please ourselves (Rom. 15:1-2)
 - I. Not seeking self-glory and willing to empty ourselves (Phil. 2:1-8)
 - J. Keeping the feast of atonement

Meeting 7 – The Overcoming Life

- I. Overcoming the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10-11)
 - A. Through the precious blood of Christ (1 John 1:9-10)
 - B. The word of his testimony
 - C. Not loving our soul Life
- II. Having no fear of suffering (Rev. 2:10-12; Rom. 8:17-18; Acts 14:22)
 - A. Willing to be tested (1 Pet. 1:6)
 - B. Being faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10)
 - C. Reward: the crown of life and not be hurt by the second death (Rev. 2:10-11)
- III. Overcoming the World
 - A. The place where Satan's throne is (Rev. 2:12-13)

- B. Not conforming to the world (Rom. 12:2)
- C. Not loving the world (1 John 2:15-16)
- IV. Overcoming Religion
 - A. Not deceived by the outward appearance (Rev. 2:19)
 - B. Rejecting the teaching of Jezebel and the deep things of Satan (Rev. 2:20)
 - C. Rejecting the traditions of men (Mark 7:8-10)
- V. Overcoming spiritual death – having a name that we are alive but are dead (Rev. 3:1-3)
- VI. Persevering to the end and not allowing anyone to steal our Crown (Rev. 3:10-11)
- VII. Not becoming proud, lukewarm and complacent (Rev. 3:15-17)

Meeting 8 – Judgment and Having the Fear of God

- I. The coming of God’s judgment (Acts. 10:42; 2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:5; Heb. 12:23)
 - A. God’s kingdom is righteousness (Rom 14:10; Heb. 1:8-9)
 - B. Man’s righteousness as filthy rags (Is. 64:6)
 - C. Judgment begins in the house of God (1 Pet. 4:17)
 - D. Spirits of just men made perfect (Heb. 12:23-29)
- II. Judgment seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:9-11)
 - A. Faithful ones will receive the reward (Matt. 25)
 - 1. Raptured as the overcomers and firstfruits (Rev. 12:5, 10-11; 14:1-5)
 - 2. Receive the crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:6-8)
 - 3. Wedding supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9)
 - 4. Reign with Christ for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:6)
 - B. Unfaithful ones will be punished
 - 1. Not be rapture and left behind (Matt. 25:8-12; 24:40-42; Rev. 13:7)
 - 2. Cast into outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 25:24-30)

3. Beaten with many stripes (Luke 12:45-48)
 4. Cut in two (Matt. 24:48-51)
 5. Burned by fire (1 Cor. 3:15)
- III. Having the fear of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:11; Is. 11:2-3; Prov. 1:7; 9:10)
- A. God is holy; we must be holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16; 1 Pet. 2:5; Is. 25:8)
 - B. Serving God with reverence and godly fear (Heb. 12:28; Phil. 2:12)
 - C. Do not be complacent (Rev. 3:2, 15-17)
 - D. Overcome (Rev. 2-3)
 - E. Press on towards the goal (Phil. 3:12-14)

Conference Schedule

Aug 30, Thursday evening, 7:30pm

Aug 31, Friday evening, 7:30pm

Sept 1, Saturday morning, 10:00am, evening, 7:30pm

Sept 2, Sunday morning, 10:00am, evening, 7:30pm

Sept 3, Monday morning, 10:00am