

CONCERNING THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS

(The Thessalonians and the Coming of Christ)

Introduction

- 1) **1 Thessalonians 5:1** – “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren...”
- 2) Brethren at Thessalonica had a great interest in the “coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (3:13)
 - a) Paul mentioned it often in 1 Thessalonians (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-11, 23) and 2 Thessalonians (1:7-10; 2:1-3)
- 3) There is always a concern about the times and the seasons – a constant stream of predictions about the end of time whenever people observe catastrophes and/or major social changes
 - a) Many have claimed to know when the events surrounding the second coming of Jesus and the end of the world will happen, even to setting specific dates
 - b) Human history is littered with many failed religious and secular predictions about the imminent end of the world
- 4) What did Paul reveal to the Thessalonian brethren that can inform us about the truth today?

I) **Unknown Time of Christ’s Coming**

- A) As a “thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:1-2; cf. 2 Pet. 3:10)
 - 1) Indicates the time is unannounced [unrevealed], and therefore unknown (cf. Matt. 24:36)
- B) Paul warned about some saying that the day of the Lord had come (2 Thess. 2:1-2)
 - 1) Such false teaching will shake and trouble people’s faith in the revealed truth
 - a) Some would also teach that the resurrection was already past (2 Tim. 2:18)
 - 2) God has His own plan and timetable (v. 3; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1)
 - a) God is not slack/slow concerning keeping His promise (2 Pet. 3:3-4, 8-9)
- C) The time of the return of the Lord Jesus is still future and unknown

II) **Events Taking Place at Christ’s Coming**

- A) Paul reveals the events to take place at Christ’s return
 - 1) *For the righteous* – Christ descends, dead raised, living caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air to remain with Him (1 Thess. 4:13-18)
 - 2) *For the unrighteous* – Christ revealed in flaming fire, punishment (2 Thess. 1:7-9)
- B) All final events to take place at the day of His coming
 - 1) Resurrection of all men (Jn. 5:28-29)
 - 2) Judgment of all men (Matt. 25:31-32)
 - 3) End of all present realm (2 Pet. 3:7, 10-13)

III) **Our Attitude Awaiting Christ’s Coming**

- A) Watching and being sober (1 Thess. 5:4-10 *sober* = presence of mind)
- B) Waiting patiently (1 Thess. 1:10; Jas. 5:7-8; Rom. 13:11)
- C) Abounding in love and established blameless in holiness (1 Thess. 3:12-13; 5:23)
- D) Comforting and encouraging one another (1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11, 14; 2 Thess. 2:16-17)
- E) Be established and guarded from the evil one (2 Thess. 3:1-5)

Conclusion

Like the Thessalonians, let us be watchful and prepared. The destinies that await us are eternal (Matt. 25:46). Will that Day be a great and bright day, or a sad and regretful day? Make any changes necessary so that you will experience it as a great day of eternal salvation as you are gathered to always be with the Lord!