

The Christian Center Newsletter 10-6-24

Jesus Could Come Back at Anytime! Be Ready!

I've been preaching the gospel now for over 45 years, and I tell you that I'm more excited now than I have ever been. The reason I'm excited is because I see that we are in the season that Jesus can come back; and when He does, we will receive our new spiritual bodies that will live forever! No more pain; no more sorrow; the days of weeping and crying will be over forever. The Bible gives us clues as to when this event will take place, so let's get into it.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 MSG And regarding the question, friends, that has come up about what happens to those already dead and buried, we don't want you in the dark any longer. First off, you must not carry on over them like people who have nothing to look forward to, as if the grave were the last word. Since Jesus died and broke loose from the grave, God will most certainly bring back to life those who died in Jesus. [15-18] And then this: We can tell you with complete confidence-we have the Master's word on it-that when the Master comes again to get us, those of us who are still alive will not get a jump on the dead and leave them behind. In actual fact, they'll be ahead of us. The Master himself will give the command. Archangel thunder! God's trumpet blast! He'll come down from Heaven and the dead in Christ will rise-they'll go first. Then the rest of us who are still alive at the time will be caught up with them into the clouds to meet the Master. Oh, we'll be walking on air! And then there will be one huge family reunion with the Master. So reassure one another with these words.

In these verses we see that death will be overpowered by life on that day. We will have such a wonderful eternity, it's hard to explain. The Bible gives us a glimpse of what we will experience in our new eternal life. Let's look at what God tells us is ahead.

1 Corinthians 15:35-49 MSG Some skeptic is sure to ask, "Show me how resurrection works. Give me a diagram; draw me a picture. What does this

'resurrection body' look like?" If you look at this question closely, you realize how absurd it is. There are no diagrams for this kind of thing. We do have a parallel experience in gardening. You plant a "dead" seed; soon there is a flourishing plant. There is no visual likeness between seed and plant. You could never guess what a tomato would look like by looking at a tomato seed. What we plant in the soil and what grows out of it don't look anything alike. The dead body that we bury in the ground and the resurrection body that comes from it will be dramatically different. [39-41] You will notice that the variety of bodies is stunning. Just as there are different kinds of seeds, there are different kinds of bodies-humans, animals, birds, fish-each unprecedented in its form. You get a hint at the diversity of resurrection glory by looking at the diversity of bodies not only on Earth but in the skies-sun, moon, stars-all these varieties of beauty and brightness. And we're only looking at pre-resurrection "seeds"-who can imagine what the resurrection "plants" will be like! [42-44] This image of planting a dead seed and raising a live plant is a mere sketch at best, but perhaps it will help in approaching the mystery of the resurrection body-but only if you keep in mind that when we're raised, we're raised for good, alive forever! The corpse that's planted is no beauty, but when it's raised, it's glorious. Put in the ground weak, it comes up powerful. The seed sown is natural; the seed grown is supernatural-same seed, same body, but what a difference from when it goes down in physical mortality to when it is raised up in spiritual immortality! [45-49] We follow this sequence in Scripture: The First Adam received life, the Last Adam is a life-giving Spirit. Physical life comes first, then spiritual-a firm base shaped from the earth, a final completion coming out of Heaven. The First Man was made out of earth, and people since then are earthy; the Second Man was made out of Heaven, and people now can be heavenly. In the same way that we've worked from our earthy origins, let's embrace our heavenly ends.

Now you might ask how will we know when all these things will happen? God tells us the season but not the day. Let's look at what He says about it. Matthew 24:14 KJV And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 MSG Now, friends, read these next words carefully. Slow down and don't go jumping to conclusions regarding the day when our Master, Jesus Christ, will come back and we assemble to welcome Him. Don't let anyone shake you up or get you excited over some breathless report or rumored letter from me that the day of the Master's arrival has come and gone. Don't fall for any line like that. [3-5] Before that day comes, a couple of things have to happen. First, the Apostasy. Second, the debut of the Anarchist, a real dog of Satan. He'll defy and then take over every so-called god or altar. Having cleared away the opposition, he'll then set himself up in God's Temple as "God Almighty." Don't you remember me going over all this in detail when I was with you? Are your memories that short? [6-8] You'll also remember that I told you the Anarchist is being held back until just the right time. That doesn't mean that the spirit of anarchy is not now at work. It is, secretly and underground. But the time will come when the Anarchist will no longer be held back, but will be let loose. But don't worry. The Master Jesus will be right on his heels and blow him away. The Master appears and-puff!-the Anarchist is out of there. [9-12] The Anarchist's coming is all Satan's work. All his power and signs and miracles are fake, evil sleight of hand that plays to the gallery of those who hate the truth that could save them. And since they're so obsessed with evil, God rubs their noses in it-gives them what they want. Since they refuse to trust truth, they're banished to their chosen world of lies and illusions. [13-14] Meanwhile, we've got our hands full continually thanking God for you, our good friends-so loved by God! God picked you out as His from the very start. Think of it: included in God's original plan of salvation by the bond of faith in the living truth. This is the life of the Spirit He invited you to through the Message we delivered, in which you get in on the glory of our Master, Jesus Christ. [15-17] So, friends, take a firm stand, feet on the ground and head high. Keep a tight grip on what you were taught, whether in personal conversation or by our letter. May Jesus Himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech.

This Newsletter is very long, and you really will have to study it to get the full meaning. If you live in this region, I hope to see you on Sunday; if not you can live stream with us by going to our app. The Christian Center

Love you,
Pastor Paul

This Week's Daily Bible Readings

Monday John 10

Tuesday John 11

Wednesday John 12

Thursday John 13

Friday John 14

Saturday John 15

Sunday John 16

STAY CONNECTED

** Women of the Word Conference coming up October 25-26!! Ushers have registration forms.

** Women's Fellowship: Saturday 9am in the Fellowship Hall

** If you need prayer, call our Prayer Line 580-704-0505

** Singles will be eating after Services at: Luigi's 2510 NW Cache Rd

** The Christian Center app- <https://subsplash.com/thechristiancenter/app>

** You can text to give through the TCC app.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES at 9:45am

Children — 6 months - 5th grade

Youth — 6th -12th grades

Young Singles/College & Career —ages 18-26 Eliav/Kim Nash

ADULT CLASSES

*Foundation 1 - Pastor Paul

*Healing - Lester/Monica Witherspoon

*Faith - Mike Whitley

*Marriage -Danny/Demetrice Williams

*Foundation 2 - Mike Wiggins

*Prayer - Joe Cunningham

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Daily

* Early Morning Prayer in Sanctuary: Monday-Friday 6:15-7:15 am

* Women's Dance Aerobics: Mon-Fri 10-11am in the Gym

* Noonday Bible Study: Mon-Fri 12:15 in Sanctuary or 91.1fm or live stream on TCC app

Weekly

** Sunday Services: 9:45 am classes; 10:45 am Main Service

** Monday Night Care Group: In Sanctuary under balcony 7pm

** Wednesday Night Prayer: 6pm before Services in the Foundation 1 Classroom

** Wednesday Night: Adult and Youth Services 7pm (Youth meet in Youth area)

** Mobile Prayer: Fri 2-3:30 pm Hobby Lobby parking lot

** Friday Night Prayer: 7pm in Sanctuary under balcony

Monthly

*** Men's Fellowship: 1st Saturday 9am at Golden Corral

*** Crosses at the Corner: 1st Saturday 11am-1pm corner of Sheridan and Cache Rd.

*** Women's Meeting: 2nd Saturday 9am in Fellowship Hall

*** Women's Discipleship:
3rd Thursday 5pm in Sanctuary

*** Horse Ministry: 3rd Saturday 10am -1pm at Camp Faith

*** Relationship Class: 4th Saturday 10am-12 in Fellowship Hall. Childcare 4 years old and up