

"This We Declare"

**1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians
May 26, 2013**

B. The revelation of God requires that His children be informed about the reality of the last day, (vs. 4: 13 – 5: 11)

14. A Correct Application Of The Last Day Does Not Focus On The Timing Of The Day, (vs. 10)

He that loves Christ loves His appearing. Christ's appearing will be a happy appearing to the saints. His appearing now is very comforting... when He shall appear for us as our Husband. He will at that day bestow two jewels upon us - His love; a love so great and astonishing, that it is better felt than expressed... No wonder then that he who loves Christ longs for His appearance. By this let us test our love to Christ. A wicked man who is self-condemned, is afraid of Christ's appearing, and wishes He would never appear; but such as love Christ are joyful to think of His coming in the clouds. They shall then be delivered from all their sins and fears, they shall be acquitted before men and angels, and shall be for ever translated into the paradise of God. ~ Thomas Watson

10.1) The Last Day Is About Christ's Sacrifice; Not The Church

"Who Died (Aor.Act.Part) For Us"-

"And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." (John 10:16-18, ESV)

What rejoicing in His presence, When are banished grief and pain; When the crooked ways are straightened, And the dark things shall be plain. Face to face—oh, blissful moment! Face to face—to see and know; Face to face with my Redeemer, Jesus Christ Who loves me so. ~ Grant Tullar, 1898

10.2) The Last Day Is About Christ's Sacrifice; Not Our Temporal Condition

"Whether We Are Awake Or

Asleep (Pres.Act.Sub)"- "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment." (John 5:25-29, ESV)

Fear is cast out by the Spirit of God, no other way than by the prevailing of love... but when love is asleep. At such a time, in vain is all the saint's self-examinations, and poring on past experience, in order to establish his peace... For it is contrary to the nature of things, as God hath constituted them, that he should have assurance at such a time. They therefore directly thwart God's wise and gracious constitution of things, who exhort others to be confident in their hope, when in dead frames; under a notion of living by faith, and not by sight, and trusting God in the dark, and living upon Christ, and not upon experiences and who warn them not to doubt of their good estate, lest they should be guilty of the dreadful sin of unbelief. It has a direct tendency to establish the most presumptuous hypocrites, and to prevent their ever calling their state into question, how much so ever wickedness rages—reigns in their hearts, and prevails in their lives—under a notion of honouring God, by hoping against hope, and confidently trusting in God, when things look very dark. And, doubtless, vast has been the mischief that has been done this way. ~ Jonathan Edwards

10.3) The Last Day Is About Christ's Sacrifice Giving Life

"We Might Live (Aor.Act.Sub) With Him"-

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Peter 2:24-25, ESV)

1) "For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 2) For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. 3) So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 4) For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. 5) Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;" (Romans 14:7-10, ESV)

- 1) No one is truly "Master" of their own destiny.
- 2) Christ is the One who controls our living and dying.
- 3) Regardless of our condition, we belong to Christ.
- 4) This is why Christ came, to be Lord of all; both the living and the dead.
- 5) Why then do we highjack Christ's rightful place to judge; we will have to give an account.

How are you missing the point of the last day by focusing on the time and seasons?

My burden in Thy Passion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me, For it was my transgression which brought this woe on Thee. I cast me down before Thee, wrath were my rightful lot; Have mercy, I implore Thee; Redeemer, spurn me not!

What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest friend, For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? O make my Thine forever, and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee. ~ Ber-nard of Clair-vaux, 1153

C. The revelation of God requires that His children are found blameless at the Lord's return, (vs. 5: 12 - 28)

III We must pay much closer attention to why we must live with self discipline under God's word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)

A. The wrath of God is a very present reality for those who do not believe the gospel, (vs. 1: 1 - 12)

B. The wrath of God is a very present reality governed by the ordained decrees of God, (vs. 2: 1 - 17)

C. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 - 18)