

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE APPEARING OF CHRIST

Introduction: “What Are You Looking Forward to?”

I. Most People Do Not Look Forward to, Much Less Even Think About, the Lord’s Return.

A. Just as in the days of Noah, the world today mocks the Lord’s coming of Judgment (2 Pet. 3:3-7; Mat. 24:37-39).

B. Too many brethren today are entangled in the affairs of everyday life to such a degree that the Lord’s coming is not their number one heart’s desire (2 Tim. 2:3-4).

II. For the Christian, the Lord’s Appearing Should Be a Greatly Anticipated Event!

A. *Eagerly*, the Christian awaits for the arrival of the Savior (Phil. 3:20-21).

B. Those who *love* His appearing (long for it, welcome it), are those who keep the faith (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

III. If We Truly Look Forward to the Appearing of Christ, What Will Our Conduct Be?

A. We will obey the gospel for our eternal salvation (2 Thes. 1:6-10).

B. With faith, we will continue to imagine it, contemplate it, and meditate on it *often* (1 Thes. 4:13-18).

C. We will talk about it (1 Thes. 4:18; 5:1-11; Acts 17:30-31).

D. We will watch for it, knowing it could occur at anytime on any day (Not for signs – Compare Mat. 24:15-22 with 1 Thes. 5:2, but for the event - Luke 12:35-40).

E. We will not procrastinate, but instead make haste to obey the Lord *now*, while we still have a chance, *before* Christ returns (2 Pet. 3:8-9; James 4:14, 17; Heb. 9:27; Eph. 5:16).

F. We will prepare for it by holy and godly living (2 Pet. 3:10-14; 1 John 3:3; 1:9).

G. We will not be “lukewarm” in our service to God, but “zealous for good deeds” (Titus 2:11-15).

Conclusion: Only Those Who Look Forward to the Appearing of Christ Will Be Saved (Heb. 9:28).