

TIP TOEING THROUGH THE TOUGH STUFF

Phil. 4:4-9

Lesson Three: The Lord is near!

I. Introduction

- A. This reminder occurs in the midst of Paul's highlighting the 1st prerequisite for peace: Make you "sweet reasonableness" evident to everyone. And your motivation for doing so is- "The Lord is near."

A word about omnipresence: Acts 17:27-28:

II. "The Lord is near" – He is coming (again)

- A. A word about different "ages" outlined in scripture

Examples: Daniel 2:31-45, 9:24-27

- B. "The Present Age"

1. Christ came: (The First Time)

- a. Prophesied in scripture- Psalm 22, Isaiah 53
- b. Fulfilled in His birth, death and resurrection- Mark 8:31
- c. He accomplished our salvation- I Cor. 15:3
- d. The spirit of God came to indwell us- Acts 2:4

2. Characterized by-

A Denial of God - (II Tim 3:4-5)

- C. Christ's Second coming

1. Some Greek terms

- a. "**Parousia**"- occurs 24 times in New Testament

- 1) Means "to be near" or "alongside"
- 2) Often refers to the rapture of the church: (I Cor. 15:23, I Thess. 4:15)
- 3) Also used in reference to the second return of Christ: (I Thess. 3:13, II Thess. 2:8)
- 4) Notice the 4 uses in the book of Matthew: 24:3, 27, 37, 39

- b. **“Apokalupsis”** – occurs 18 times in the New Testament as a noun, and 26 times as a verb.
 - 1) Root means “to cover” or “to veil”, with the prefix, means to “unveil”, “to reveal”.
See – (I Peter 4:13, II Thess. 1:7, Luke 17:30)
- c. **“Epiphaneia”**-
 - 1) Means “to bring forth into light” or “to cause to shine”
 - 2) It is used in reference to Christ’s first coming: (II Tim 1:10, Luke 1:79)
 - 3) It is used in reference to the Rapture: (I Tim 6:14, II Tim 4:8)
 - 4) It is used in reference to His second coming: (II Tim 4:1, Titus 2:13)

2. The Two- Fold fulfillment

- a. He meets the Believers in the air: (I Thess. 4:13-18)
 - 1) “Rapture” Positions:
 - a) Partial Rapture: only for those watching and waiting (Luke 21:36)
 - b) Post Tribulation: sees the rapture and second coming as one event, or sees no distinction between The Church and Israel
 - c) Mid Tribulation: believes church needs purging
 - d) Pre Tribulation: based on a literal interpretation of scripture- notices the nature of the tribulation (full of wrath, judgment, trial, punishment etc.), sees a clear distinction between Israel and The Church.
 - 2) Characteristics of Second coming
 - a) It will be personal (Acts 1:11).
 - b) It will be sudden (I Thess. 5:2-3).
 - c) It will be glorious (II Thess. 1:7).
- b. He descends upon the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4)
He comes to reveal Himself (Rev. 1:7). To judge the Beast, false prophets and their armies (Rev. 19:19-21). To bind Satan (Rev. 20:1-2), to save Israel (Rom. 11:1, 5, 25, 26) and to set up His Kingdom (Rev. 11:15)

III. How shall we then live?

With a “sweet reasonableness” towards all, we must shout “Marantha”!
“Marantha” is an Aramaic term found in I Cor. 16:22, (see Rev. 22:20) that means “the Lord is coming” or “Come, oh Lord.” It became the common greeting for believers; replaced the Jewish “Shalom”.

- A. We need to be “watching” (“to be sleepless”/“vigilant”) for his return. Checking off the signs (Matt. 24)

“It could be today” needs to be on the forefront of our minds.

Such an attitude will positively impact what we think about, what we worry over and our plans for the future.

- B. We need to be spiritually “alert” (to be awake)
1. We need to “continue steadfastly in prayer, watching with thanksgiving” (Col. 4:2)
 2. We need to be very aware of Satan and His desires to devour us. (I Peter 5:8)

Discussion Questions:

1. Our lesson today was rooted in what the Bible has to say about Christ’s return. Why is it so important for you to be a student of word? Does that come easy for you?
2. Do you have an opinion about “The Rapture”? How could you form one? Why is that important?
3. In light of Christ’s imminent return, what could/should you change about your life?
4. If you knew for sure that Christ was returning tomorrow, what would you emphasize? Discard? What is holding you back from doing just that?