

#1 Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming by Loving His Appearing and Not Loving the Present

I If the Lord's second coming is precious to us, we will love His appearing:

2 Tim. 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also those who have loved His appearing.

A Loving the Lord's appearing and loving the Lord Himself are inseparable.

B If we are waiting for the Lord to come, we should be those who love His appearing.

C The Lord's appearing, His coming back, is a warning, an encouragement, and an incentive to us:

2 Tim. 4:1 I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom.

1 We should love the Lord's appearing and look forward to it with earnest expectation and joy.

Rev. 22:12 Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with Me to render to each one as his work is. 20 He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Phil. 3:20 ...we eagerly await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

2 We should have a living that loves the Lord's appearing; this causes us not to be discouraged but to remain faithful to the end.

II "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).

A The world is an evil system arranged systematically by Satan:

1 John 2:16 Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 God created man to live on the earth for the fulfillment of His purpose, but His enemy, Satan, in order to usurp the God-created man, formed an anti-God world system on this earth by systematizing people with culture, education, industry, commerce, entertainment, and

religion.

2 All the things on the earth, especially those related to mankind, and all the things in the air have been systematized by Satan into his kingdom of darkness to occupy people and frustrate them from accomplishing the purpose of God and to distract them from the enjoyment of God.

3 The world is against God the Father, the things in the world are against the will of God, and those who love the world are enemies of God.

B "The whole world," the satanic system, "lies in the evil one":

1 "The whole world" comprises the satanic world system and the people of the world, the fallen human race.

2 Lies means remaining passively in the sphere of the evil one's usurpation and manipulation; the whole world and the people of the world are lying passively under the usurping and manipulating hand of Satan, the evil one.

3 The Greek word rendered "evil" in 1 John 5:19 refers to one who is pernicious, harmfully evil, one who affects others, influencing them to be evil and vicious; such an evil one is Satan, the devil, in whom the whole world lies.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.

C Satan is utilizing the material world and the things that are in the world to eventually head everything up in the kingdom of Antichrist; at that hour the world system will have reached its zenith, and every unit of it will be revealed to be anti-Christian.

III Loving the Lord's appearing is in contrast to loving the present age:

A An age is a part, a section, or an aspect of the world system of Satan, which is used by him to usurp and occupy people and keep them away from God and His purpose.

B In 2 Timothy 4:10 the present age refers to the world that surrounds, attracts, and tempts us; we cannot contact the world unless we contact the present age of the world.

2 Tim. 4:10 For Demas has abandoned me, having loved the present age, and has gone to Thessalonica;

C Demas loved the present age; due to the attraction of the present age, he forsook the

apostle Paul.

D In Romans 12:2 Paul exhorts us to not be fashioned according to this age but to be transformed by the renewing of the mind:

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

1 This age in verse 2 denotes the present, practical part of the world, which stands in opposition to the Body life and replaces the Body life.

2 To be fashioned according to this age means to adopt the modern fashions of the present age; to be transformed is to allow an organic element to be wrought into our being, thus producing an inward metabolic change.

3 Because the present age opposes the church, which is God's will, we must not be fashioned according to it.

4 If we are to live in the Body of Christ, we should not follow the present age or be fashioned according to this age or conformed to it.

E If we love the present age, we will take sides with the world; if we love the Lord's appearing, we will take sides with Him and fight with Him for His interests.

IV Those who love the Lord, wait for His coming, and love His appearing will overcome:

1 Cor. 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed! The Lord comes!

A Loving the Lord's appearing is a proof that we love the Lord and live for Him today; hence, it also becomes a condition for us to receive His reward.

B To love the Lord's appearing does not mean that we should not live a normal life; rather, the more we love His appearing, the more we need to live a normal life today.

C As those who love the Lord Jesus, take Him as our life, live Him, and magnify Him, we should await His coming and love His appearing; this should be our heart's desire and our living as those who hope to enter into His joy, be saved into the Lord's heavenly kingdom, and receive the crown of righteousness.

2 Tim. 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the

crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

神戸に在る召会交わりと報告事項

1. 姉妹集会の集会場所について:

夙川地区の福音枠組みを強化するため、6月から第一大地区の集会場所を以下のように変更します。尚、5/24:本山、5/31:夙川で行います。

1週目:本山

2週目:夙川

3週目:本山

4週目:夙川

5週目:魚崎

2. 食事献金について:

主日の食事献金を以下に統一します。

大人:350円 学生(小・中・高・大):200円

乳幼児:無料

3. 水曜朝のリー全集通読時間について:

水曜日は、姉妹集会やリジョイスガーデンプレディング等があるため、通読時間を8:40-9:10に時間を固定します。

4. 土曜8:30-9:00の預言準備集会担当按配:

5/20本山、5/27三宮・神戸

5. 月曜日の責任者と奉仕者の交わり:

5/22 19:55-20:25 六甲

20:30-21:00 魚崎・六アイ

5/29 19:55-20:25 三宮・神戸

20:30-21:00 全体

6. 4月献金報告:

詳細は別紙を見てください。

7. 勝又理充B・野口真海S婚約お祝い集会:

5/27(土)13:30~@京都七条集会所

8. Youtube福音集会担当按配:

5/28 六甲

6/4 三宮・神戸

6/11 魚崎・六アイ

6/18 YP

6/25 六甲

9. 2023年夏のプレディングスケジュール:

詳細は別紙を見てください。7月末から8月にかけて、諸召会とのプレディングやSST、リジョイスガーデンプレディング等を計画しています。スケジュールを確認して、なるべくプレディングに参加してください。プレディングを通して、更にキリストのからだに豊かに建造されますように。

CP1 By a living that loves and waits for the Lord's appearing, we can not be discouraged but to remain faithful to the end

IC The Lord's appearing, His coming back, is a warning, an encouragement, and an incentive to us : **1** We should love the Lord's appearing and look forward to it with earnest expectation and joy. **2** We should have a living that loves the Lord's appearing; this causes us not to be discouraged but to remain faithful to the end. [Rev. 22:12](#) Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to each one as his work is. [20](#) He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! [Phil. 3:20](#) For our commonwealth exists in the heavens, from which also we eagerly await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

While waiting for the Lord's return, we should learn to fear Him. In [Luke 12](#) the Lord gave a parable concerning a rich man who endeavored to lay up wealth for himself so that his soul might enjoy itself and be merry. But God said to him, "Foolish one, this night they are requiring your soul from you" (v.20). Every "today" that we have is truly the Lord's grace. Therefore, as long as we have today, as long as we still have breath, we should love the Lord and His appearing, await the Lord's coming, and take His coming as an encouragement.

In [2 Timothy 4:1](#) Paul says to Timothy, "I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom." This is an exhortation from Paul immediately before his martyrdom... He reminded Timothy that by the Lord's judgment and kingdom we should have a living that loves the Lord's appearing. This is also a reminder to us, and this will cause us not to be discouraged, not to backslide, and not to become weak but to remain faithful to the end.

At the end of the first century, the Lord said, "Behold, I come quickly," so that we would consider His reward to be rendered at His coming back... We should not think that because the Lord has been tolerating the situation for more than nineteen centuries, He is slow to come back. We need to look at the world situation today. We do not know what will happen within the next few days. In this age things happen very quickly. Therefore, we must pray and be watchful. We must also be prepared in spirit and in our daily life. May the Lord cover us so that we may be a watchful, praying, and prepared people.

[Application to young people, college students, new ones](#)

Testimony 1 I enjoyed the Lord's presence when I was in an oppressing environment, and I wished He would come sooner. However, once the oppressing environment passed and I was able to go about my daily life in relative peace, I found myself lukewarm. At such times, as we became more focused on the gospel and shepherding in the corporate church life, I was compelled to earnestly call on the name of the Lord and pray. Because I feel I have no power to go out to preach the gospel or to care for the new ones. The strong current of the world and the self that is influenced by it can distract me from waiting for the Lord's return. However, when I enjoy the Word of God and see the brothers and sisters who love the Lord consecrating themselves to the Lord, I am reminded that I should live a life of love for His appearances. Thank the Lord for the opportunity to live church life with brothers and sisters who love and pursue the Lord. **Testimony 2** "Set Christ as my goal, keep running toward the goal, and I will receive the prize from heaven. Forgetting everything behind and counting everything as a loss. Only Christ is the supreme treasure." (Chinese Supplement Hymn 421) This is a hymn I used to sing when I was in high school. At first, I did not know what my goal in life was, but after attending a young people conference and singing this hymn, I was able to make Christ my goal. Around the time I was graduating from high school, I had the opportunity to attend a graduation meeting of the trainees and envied the brothers and sisters for their courageous Christian life. Then I decided to join the training after I graduated from college and prayed to the Lord. At this time I was able to pray with a clear goal of pursuing Christ. [Phil. 3:14](#) I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward. [15](#) Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you. I feel that I shouldn't live within myself, but come out of self and grow into Christ, the Head, and function with Him for building. Since business life is a part of the church life, I am beginning to realize that I need to experience Christ even at work. **Prayer** Oh Lord Jesus, I long for Your second coming. By loving and waiting for the Lord's coming with anticipation and joy, I will not be discouraged and will remain faithful to the end. The Lord's return is a warning, encouragement, and motivation for me. May I not love the present world, but make Christ my only goal, and may I wake up, pray, and prepare for His coming in my daily living.

CP2 The world is systematized by Satan, so flee to the Triune God and His Word to not love the world.

II "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15) **A**

The world is an evil system arranged systematically by Satan. 1 John 2:16 Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. **1** God created man to live on the earth for the fulfillment of His purpose, but His enemy, Satan, in order to usurp the God-created man, formed an anti-God world system on this earth by systematizing people with culture, education, industry, commerce, entertainment, and religion. **2** All the things on the earth, especially those related to mankind, and all the things in the air have been systematized by Satan into his kingdom of darkness to occupy people and frustrate them from accomplishing the purpose of God and to distract them from the enjoyment of God. **3** The world is against God the Father, the things in the world are against the will of God, and those who love the world are enemies of God.

III Loving the Lord's appearing is in contrast to loving the present age. **IV** Those who love the Lord, wait for His coming, and love His appearing will overcome.

In studying the history of mankind we have to acknowledge marked progress in each of these departments. The question however is: In what direction is this "progress" tending? What is the ultimate goal of all this development? At the end, John tells us, antichrist will arise and will set up his own kingdom in this world.

There is a force abroad now which is captivating men...Have you ever heard so much talk about money? Have you ever thought so much about food and clothing? Wherever you go, even among Christians, the things of the world are the topics of conversation. The world has advanced to the very door of the Church and is seeking to draw even the saints of God into its grasp....In such a situation, where shall we go?...We need to go to the Triune God. Only the Triune God has not been systematized by Satan. Along with going to the Triune God, we also need to go to the Word of God. Therefore, since every thing, every one, and every matter have been systematized by Satan, we need to flee to the Triune God and His Word.

Application to business persons, graduate students

Testimony I started working when I was 30 years old

and found that Satan was working behind the company and occupying people. As a result, people were selling their souls for money. Rev.18:12 Cargo of gold and silver and precious stone...13..., and cargo of horses and chariots and slaves and souls of men. **FN** souls of men Of the cargo sold by Babylon, the first item is gold and the last is the souls of men. Souls of men refers to men who sell themselves for employment. This depicts not only the coming Babylon but also today's world. People sell their soul, their life, i.e., themselves, to their occupation, neglecting God and their eternal destiny.

For the sake of their own employment and income, they blindly obeyed their bosses like slaves, sacrificing their own morality and family life to work long hours, drink at night, play golf on weekends, and so on. They not only ate and drank, but also committed many fornications. Satan also threatened me, telling me that if I did not follow the trend of this world like everyone else, I would be fired from my job and lose my income. I was weak with fear at the threat, but I fled back to the Word of God and prayed with all my faith, "Lord Jesus, I cannot return to this world and love it, denying the visions of heaven and the many testimonies I have seen in the full-time training. Or perhaps, in Japan, not following the invitation of one's superiors may entail the risk of losing one's job. But I will follow Daniel and his three friends and come out of the worldly trend by faith. I want to keep my faith, even if it means I get fired from my job. I believe that faith in the Lord overcomes cultural barriers in Japanese society. Satan the Devil, back off from me!" When I prayed this way, hearing the words of my faith, I who was weakened by Satan's threats, was strengthened. Each time I prayed; my faith grew a little more inside me. I can testify that no matter how strong the company's barriers against Christ and the church may be, the Lord is more than capable of overcoming them. I refused to play golf on my days off, I refused to drink at night after work, and I refused to hang out with people working overtime. And I was able to keep the righteousness. But I was never fired. I was asked at every opportunity to stay with the company for a long time because the Lord was with me and I had been very successful in my performance. As I later realized, I didn't need to be so serious. Because the Lord has already destroyed Satan. All I had to do was hold the victory of the Lord in the life of the Body of Christ. Hallelujah, Christ is Victor!