**WAITING AND HIS COMING**

Sunday School Lesson 9

*THE WORTH OF WAITING*

1 Thessalonians 1:10

1/30/2022

**Introduction:** For the last lesson in our waiting series, we are going to be looking at waiting and His return. The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is the single most important event that believers are waiting for today. To recap our waiting series, let’s look briefly at the other eight topics covered. We observed waiting and leadership in our first lesson. When the Lord is the leader in our lives, there should be no issue waiting for His direction. We also observed waiting and being merciful. When we wait on the Lord, we see the full extent of His mercy, and we are inclined to resist retaliation and allow the Lord to show mercy to others. When we wait on the Lord, our receptiveness is filled with understanding and joy. When we wait on the Lord, it gives us opportunity to have renewed strength. When we wait on the Lord, we can experience real and lasting change. When we wait on the Lord, we accept His goodness and live with contentment. When we wait on the Lord, we can persevere because He is our shield, and we know the end of the matter. The last thing we observed was how waiting helps our love. When we wait on the Lord, it proves our desire to see and hear Him, be close to Him, and value the things that He values. Turning our attention now back to the coming of the Lord, let’s consider the following thoughts as it relates to His coming and our waiting:

1. **WHEN WE WAIT ON THE LORD’S COMING, OUR SALVATION STAYS PRECIOUS TO US.**
2. **Notice that the coming of the Lord represents the completion of our salvation (Revelation 12:10; 1 Peter 1:5; Hebrews 9:28; Romans 13:11).** For now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. That’s what the Bible tells us in the book of Romans, and that ought to be the thought of every believer as it relates to the coming of the Lord. His return to gather up His church is our salvation. He will save us from the destruction to come, and He will save us from the judgment to come. While we have salvation settled and sure, we are looking up to the sky for that salvation to come down in its literal fulfillment through Jesus Christ. We are on a sinking ship. We are living on a destitute and dying planet. Everything on this planet has been broken by sin. Jesus will return to deliver us from this mess. Our salvation was made possible through His first coming, but our salvation will be made forever present at His next coming to gather up His church. We will no longer have to deal with the Devil because of that salvation. The Devil has been cast down to dwell on this earth, and he knows his time is short. He is dreading the coming of the Lord because he knows that it represents his sure and sudden defeat.
3. **Notice that when you wait on the Lord’s coming, it speaks to excitement over your salvation (Isaiah 25:9; Lamentations 3:26; Micah 7:7).** The book of Lamentations tells us that it is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. It ought to be what every Christian is doing. We are waiting for His coming because He brings salvation with Him. Notice what the Bible says in Isaiah 25:9: “And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” This is what the response should be of every born-again person. We have waited for the Lord. We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation! What does it say about us if we are not waiting for the coming of the Lord? Is our salvation precious to us? It’s likely that we might not fully understand exactly how great our salvation is. We are waiting for the God of our salvation to return. He is our Deliverer. He is our Hope. He is our Messiah. The world does not wait for His coming because they do not have salvation. To them, He comes as a judge. To us, He comes as our blessed Saviour!
4. **WHEN WE WAIT ON THE LORD’S COMING, OUR DEVOTION STAYS PRESENT WITH US.**
5. **Notice that the disciples lost their devotion to the Lord when they stopped waiting for Him (John 21; Luke 24:21-25).** The disciples were very devoted to the Lord during His earthly ministry. They served Him in any way that they could. They followed Him, even when they did not understand everything that was taking place. Their life revolved around Him. They quit their jobs to serve Him daily. They likely left behind family and friends to follow Jesus. No one should question their devotion to the Lord during His earthly ministry. Yet, we know what happened after His death. They lost their devotion. They were not waiting for anything. They were truly shocked at His resurrection. This likely explains why they are later found out fishing instead of following Jesus. They had lost some of their devotion to Him. They did not know what to do with themselves. Likewise, if we are not waiting on the Lord, how can we expect to be people who are devoted to Him? The motivation of service is found in our understanding that the Master is going to come back. Are we waiting for His coming?
6. **Notice that when you wait on the Lord’s coming, it keeps you devoted to the cause and calling of God (Acts 1:1-14; Luke 2:25; 23:51; Acts 10:7).** Before the Lord ascended, He told His disciples to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them. Was there any doubt what the disciples were going to do? They did exactly as they were instructed. They went back to Jerusalem and waited patiently for the Holy Spirit. They were devoted to His coming. Many Christians lack devotion because they are not waiting for the coming of the Lord. Simeon was a devout man mentioned in the book of Luke. The Holy Ghost had told him that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Do you think that had anything to do with Simeon’s devotion? I would expect so. If you knew the Lord was going to come in your lifetime, would it not promote greater devotion to Him? Yet, He could come during our lifetime, and it seems that very few our devoted to the work of God. Will He come and find any faithful men? Let’s be people who eagerly wait for the coming of the Lord.
7. **WHEN WE WAIT ON THE LORD’S COMING, OUR MOUTH STAYS PREACHING WHAT HE’S DONE AND WILL DO FOR US.**
8. **Notice that it is sinful to stay silent as a believer (Ephesians 4:15; 5:11; Leviticus 5:1; James 4:17; 5:20; Ezekiel 3:18-19; Mark 16:15; Proverbs 31:9).** We have a call to preach the Gospel. We have a call to proclaim what Christ has done for us. We have a call to praise the Lord and shoutthose praises to this world. It is not just a passive thing to stay silent over what the Lord has done for you. It is a sin to be silent! If we know and are commanded to do something, it is surely sinful not to do it. We should be telling everyone that we can that Christ can save their soul. We should not shy away from speaking of the coming of the Lord. In our flesh, we might feel intimidated to speak of His coming to others. We may fear being seen as some type of strange individual. After all, His coming does lend its way to the destruction of the world. Yet, that must not prevent us from proclaiming what He will do. It is not the world’s destruction that excites us. It is the Lord’s coming and the new Heaven and earth that He will create for us to dwell in with Him. Let’s not be silent regarding the Saviour.
9. **Notice that when you wait on the Lord’s coming, it will push you to speak out to others of Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:6-10).** The apostle Paul commended the church at Thessalonica in the first chapter of 1 Thessalonians. What was it about the church that impressed the apostle? Well, he mentioned that the Word of the Lord sounded out from them. It sounded out first in Macedonia and Achaia, but it went so far as to reach every place that their faith to God had been spread abroad. Paul literally had nothing else to say about it. They had done all of the talking. They had proclaimed God’s Word everywhere that they could. What was it that prompted them to be so vocal? The answer is found in verses 9 and 10. They had turned to God, and they were waiting for His Son to come down from Heaven. It is no coincidence that much of the two letters unto the church of the Thessalonians deals with the return of Christ. The church was very interested in His return. They were singularly focused on His coming.
10. **WHEN WE WAIT ON THE LORD’S COMING, OUR OUTLOOK STAYS POSITIVE WITHIN US.**
11. **Notice that when you wait on the Lord’s coming, you see the victory that’s coming with it (Zephaniah 3:8; Habakkuk 2:3).** We started off the lesson looking at the salvation that comes from the coming of the Lord, but let’s also consider the victory. We are in a battle on this earth. We do have an enemy. The battles of life can cause us to easily get discoursed or weary. Fighting can be exhausting. What helps us to keep a positive attitude in the midst of the battle? The answer is waiting on the Lord’s coming. While we wait on His coming, we can see the victory that will come with it. He will make His enemies His prey. There ought not to be any doubt that this will occur. Some Christians struggle with discouragement because they have stopped waiting on His coming. They have turned their attention too much to their present condition. They must be reminded that this too will pass. It is only a fleeting moment. The Lord is coming! Do not be made afraid by the enemy or the circumstances.
12. **Notice that when you wait on the Lord’s coming, you see the rewards that are waiting up ahead (James 5:7-8; Philippians 3:14).** Paul was waiting on the Lord’s coming. Just like us, he did not know whether it would occur in his lifetime or not. While he waited, he could see the rewards that were waiting for him in glory. He was motivated by those rewards. He sought that prize. The book of James speaks of the coming of the Lord as a husbandman waits for precious fruit. We ought to be doing much planting now with an understanding that the Lord is going to come back. We will see the fruits of the labor when He returns. We might see some things now here on this earth, but the full reward will only be known when the Lord calls up His church. Then, we will see all that has been done, and we will get to rejoice in the work that we were able to do for Christ. When we look forward to that, how can we have a discouraged outlook in this life? Let’s wait on the Lord. Let’s be excited about His coming!