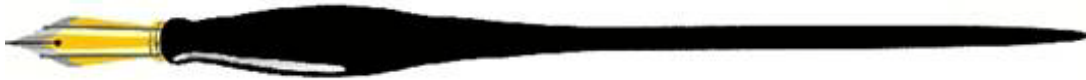


The Messenger 2010

Published Weekly by Main Street Church of Christ
306 West Main Street, Newbern, TN 38059
mainstreetcofc.com

Bulletin Editor: T. Sean Sullivan
VOLUME 005::ISSUE 034: August 29, 2010

We Are Watchers



Introduction:

Since our Lord was taken up into the cloud—His disciples have been waiting and watching for His return (Acts 1:9-11). In the first century they waited eagerly (Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:10). A long time has gone by since then and we are still waiting. This should not deter us from watching carefully everyday—Jesus will come back!

We cannot know when Christ will return (Matthew 24:36). We only know that He will return (2 Peter 3:9-10). With this knowledge we must be carefully watching for His return everyday. In this article let's consider these points together. We need to: watch ourselves; watch each other; and watch for His coming.

Watch Ourselves

The greatest fear we should have is that of being unprepared when Christ comes. We all know that He will return—if you didn't before this lesson began we have already declared it as fact several times, so you do now. We must not become distracted and trust in time (Matthew 24:45-51). We must strive to be a prepared and watching servant at His arrival.

How can we watch ourselves? We need to walk carefully in faith and doctrine; even as Paul encouraged Timothy that these need to be "*carefully followed*". We need to make sure that we continue in good works (Ephesians 2:10). We need to watch ourselves to ensure we continue in the works prepared by God. Our conduct of life needs to be examined to make certain that we are walking by the Spirit's instructions (Galatians 5:22-25). All of this careful examination relates to our need of walking worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1-6); with an understanding of our redemption's value.

Watch Each Other:

The idea of watching each other leads to all sorts of false conclusions of snoopiness and corrupt suspicion. The reality is that this is scripture need and a point of honor and respect. We watch to safeguard souls—not for spying or gossip. The Hebrew writer calls it considering one another “*to stir up love and good works*” (Hebrews 10:24)

We are going watch our brethren for times of weakness (Galatians 6:1-2); knowing that when we fail to react to our brethren’s weakness they may slip away. There may also be times of weariness (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11) for which we must be prepared to help with. Sometimes life and faith can be difficult; we need to encourage our brethren to not grow weary (Galatians 6:9). In the times of need (Romans 12:10-13) we need to willingly supply. Knowing that we may be faced with this times we all need to pray for the ability to be a supplier of needs.

We need to be there for our brethren in times of sorrow and times of joy to share (Romans 12:15). We need to be there for both: sometimes we are far better at sympathy than we are at being excited by other’s rejoicing—we must be there for both.

Watch for His Coming:

There are many people talking about the “signs of the times” these days. There is no scriptural indication of further signs. The last warning was that of Jesus speaking to us through John in Revelation 22:20, “*Surely I am coming quickly*”. We must stand with prepared attentive hearts (1 Thessalonians 5:1-8). We need clear minds and not distracted with worldly cares (Matthew 13:7, 22). We need to stand strong—not disillusioned but faithfully serving (1 Peter 1:6-9).

In 2 Peter 3:8-12, Peter declares the fact that Christ will return. In verse 11, Peter asked, “*What manner of persons ought we to be?*” We need to be holy people (1 Peter 1:15) and we must be godly (Nourished in the words of faith 1 Timothy 4:6-8)--prepared to love His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8).

Conclusion:

Are you watching for Christ today? His return is speeding toward us at the speed of time.

We need to be watchful of our own feet to maintain a righteous walk (Matthew 7:13-14); of our brethren to edify and strengthen them (1 Thessalonians 5:11); and for Christ’s return (Revelation 22:20).

Are you certain of your preparedness? Now is the time to face that tough question. Now is the time to act on your own salvation. Will you submit to God and stand prepared to watch for Christ today? ~tss

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT – CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

**OPENLY CONFESS — JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37**

**BE BAPTIZED — FOR THE REMISSION OF YOUR SINS
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21**

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39; 1 Peter 1:6-9

If you are enjoying The Messenger and you know someone else who would like to receive it. Please forward this copy to them and send their email address and I will add them to the list.

Sean