

5-12-2024 Sunday Sermon Message

Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16

Text: Ephesians 5:10-17

Scripture Title: Awake, Sleeping Christians!

Before Jesus died, he gave his disciples a very important message:

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." (John 16:13)

There is a very important thing that Jesus said about what is to come for Christians. Jesus said to Martha before raising Lazarus from the dead:

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:25-26)

Two thousand years ago, after Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came, there are countless Christians who died believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and whose bodies are still in their graves. There are also Christians who are still alive. The Apostle Paul testified in the Holy Spirit that those who have died and those who are alive will live forever because of their faith in Christ.

" But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain

shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words."(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Jesus is testifying that he will appear in the air with the spirits and souls of Christians who have died in Christ. The Apostle Paul also testified of how Christians who are alive at the Lord's coming will live forever:

⁵²"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:51-58)

When the first man, Adam, sinned, sin, death, and curse entered the world, and for the past six thousand years, all the people of the world have lived in suffering. Moses, the man of God, said in his prayer, **"All our days pass away in your wrath, and our years pass away as a story. Our years are seventy, and if we are strong, we are eight-hearted, but the strength of our years is toil and sorrow, and we fly far. Who knoweth the power of thy anger? According to your fear is your wrath. Teach us, therefore, to number our days, that our hearts may come to wisdom. Turn, O Lord. How long? Thou shalt turn concerning Thy servants.**(Psalm 90:9-13)

When God made the first man, Adam, He made him perfect in the image of God, in His likeness, and breathed the breath of life into him, so that he would live forever and never die. Also, the wisdom and understanding given to him were so perfect that we cannot imagine them. Scientists say that people living today use their brains only about 3 percent of their lifetime before dying. But we can see from the Word how perfect Adam's memory was before he sinned:

"And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof." (Genesis 2:19)

After Adam sinned and lost eternal life, God planned that his descendants would live in sin and death and curse for four thousand years, and that in order to destroy the devil, the enemy who brought all these sins, death, and curses, and to take away the sins of the world, He sent His only begotten Son into the world in the name of Jesus to make all the people of the world a sacrifice for sins, to shed His blood on the cross, and to be resurrected, so that whoever believes in Him shall not be perished, but will be made into the perfect image and likeness of God once again. Thus, through his Only Begotten Son, Jesus, he preached the good news to all the world:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. "(John 3:16)

To the Thessalonian church, who eagerly awaited the day of the rapture, the day of the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul testified of that day:

" Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time."⁽² Thessalonians 2:1-6)

Today, two thousand years later, those who are awoken can see how apostatizing the churches of God are. Jesus spoke of the coming of Christ's, the day of Christ, the day of the putting off of the mortal and corruptible body, and the day of redemption for Christians living in the last days:

"Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.⁹ But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.¹⁰ Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:¹¹ And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.... And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;²⁶ Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.²⁷ And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.²⁸ And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."^{(Luke 21:8-11; 25-28) Amen! Hallelujah!}