

Morning Watch

Fighting the Good Fight, Finishing the Course, and Loving the Lord's Appearing

Feb. 22 - Feb. 28 2021

Monday 2/22

Related Verses

2 Tim. 4:7

7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

2 Tim. 2:3-4

3 Suffer evil with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No one serving as a soldier entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please the one who enlisted him.

1 Tim. 6:11-12

11 But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold on the eternal life, to which you were called and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses.

Eph. 6:11-13

11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Suggested Reading

In 2 Timothy 4:7 Paul mentions three items: fighting the good fight, finishing the course, and keeping the faith. A proper Christian life is threefold. It involves fighting the good fight against Satan and his kingdom of darkness for the interests of God's kingdom (1 Tim. 6:12), running the course for the carrying out of God's economy according to His eternal purpose (Heb. 12:1), and keeping the faith for participation in the divine riches in God's dispensation (Gal. 3:22).

To keep the faith is to keep the entire New Testament economy of God—the faith concerning Christ as the embodiment of God and the mystery of God and the church as the Body of Christ and the mystery of Christ. (*Life-study of 2 Timothy*, pp. 61-62)

The apostles considered their ministry a warfare for Christ, just as the priestly service was considered a military service, a warfare, in Numbers 4:23, 30, 35 (lit.). Whenever we minister Christ to others, we find ourselves in a battle. Hence, we should not only be teachers committing the deposit to others, but we should also be soldiers fighting for God's interests.

The word for life [in 2 Timothy 2:4] in Greek is bios, indicating the physical life in this age. To fight a good fight (4:7) for the Lord's interests on this earth we must be cleared of any earthly entanglement. The matters of our material, physical life should not entangle us as we are endeavoring to minister Christ to others. This ministry is a fighting, and the fighting requires that we be free from entanglement. On the one hand, the priestly service is a ministry to God; on the other hand, it is a warfare against God's enemies. As the priests were bearing the ark of testimony, they had to be prepared to fight against those who might attack this testimony. (*Life-study of 2 Timothy*, pp. 23-24)

To fight for the faith means to fight for God's New Testament economy. In particular, it is to fight for Christ as the embodiment of God and for the church as the Body of Christ.

The eternal life here is the divine life, the uncreated life of God, which is eternal. Eternal denotes the nature more than the time element of the divine life. To fight the good fight of the faith in the Christian life, especially in the Christian ministry, we need to lay hold on this divine life and not trust in our human life....To bring forth God's dispensation concerning the church in 1 Timothy, to confront the process of the church's decline in 2 Timothy, and to maintain good order in the church life in Titus, this life is a prerequisite.

A man of God should pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and meekness; he should fight for God's New Testament economy and lay hold on eternal life. All these matters are essential aspects of the New Testament. In contrast, the beasts in Revelation 13 and the lake of fire in Revelation 20 cannot compare with these essential aspects. We today must fight the good fight of the faith. This means that we must fight for Christ as the embodiment of God and for the church as the Body of Christ. Furthermore, we must not merely fight objectively, but fight subjectively by laying hold on eternal life. We

should not do anything apart from this life. We should speak to our husband or wife and to our children not by the natural life, but by the eternal life. Even in the matter of buying a pair of shoes, we should live according to the eternal life to which we have been called. As today's Timothys, we need to lay hold on eternal life. (*Life-study of 1 Timothy*, pp. 101-102)

Further Reading: *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 7, Day 1*

Corporate Reading of "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures" Chapter 2 – Sections: Abolishing the Law of the Commandments in Ordinances; Destroying Satan and Judging the World

Tuesday 2/23

Related Verses

1 Tim. 1:3-4, 18

3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things

4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

18 This charge I commit to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you might war the good warfare,

Eph. 5:32

32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

Eph. 6:14-18

14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;

16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

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18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

Suggested Reading

To war the good warfare is to war against the differing teachings of the dissenters and to carry out God's dispensation (v. 4) according to the apostle's ministry concerning the gospel of grace and eternal life for the glory of the blessed God (vv. 11-16).

During Paul's first imprisonment, the churches were tested. This test showed that decline and degradation had set in. This decline was altogether due to differing teachings, teachings that were different from the ministry. This was the reason Paul charged Timothy to war a good warfare [v. 18]. (*Life-study of 2 Timothy*, pp. 18-19)

Throughout the centuries, the degradation and decline of the church has had one source: teachings which differ from the ministry of the apostles. In Acts 2:42 we see that at the beginning of the church life, the believers continued in the teachings of the apostles. These teachings were *the* ministry. What the apostles taught and preached was nothing other than Christ and the church. They preached a Christ who had been incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended in order that, as resurrection life, He might be imparted into His believers to produce the church. This is the focal point of the teaching of the apostles, and it is crucial for us to see it. No doubt, in the Bible there are teachings concerning many things. However, the focus of the ministry of the apostles was the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, ascended, and glorified Christ to be our Savior, our life, and everything to us so that we may become His Body, the church. This is the vital focus of the New Testament revelation, and this is God's economy.

We need to contact the Word and receive God by the Spirit through the Word. Then we shall have faith. By coming to the Word, we are infused with God, and spontaneously faith operates within us to bring us into an organic union with God. The more we enjoy God's infusion, the more we become one with Him. However, this vital matter has been lost for centuries. Knowing the importance of this, Paul charged Timothy to fight a good fight, to war a good warfare.

On the one hand, Timothy was to war against the differing teachings of the dissenters. On the other hand, he was to carry out God's dispensation according to the apostle's ministry. If we wish to carry out God's dispensation, we must do it not according to the teachings of traditional Christianity nor according to systematic theology, but according to the apostle's ministry.

Today we also must be on the alert for differing teachings. Throughout the centuries, the church has been poisoned and corrupted by such teachings. If we are not on guard, differing teachings may also cause damage to the Lord's recovery. In the past we have seen the damage caused by differing teachings propagated in a subtle, hidden way. This has helped the leading ones in many churches to learn the important lesson of being watchful for differing teachings. We must not allow any differing teachings to come into the Lord's recovery. The recovery is strictly for the carrying on of *the* ministry. By this I do not mean my ministry, but the ministry of the apostles, which began with Peter and is still being carried on today. All true apostles teach and preach the same thing, even the one thing—God's New Testament economy. The focus of our preaching and teaching is Christ and the church. To teach and preach God's economy concerning Christ and the church is to war a good warfare. (*Life-study of 2 Timothy*, pp. 19-21)

Further Reading: *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 7, Day 2*

Corporate Reading of "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures" Chapter 2 – Sections: *Releasing the Divine Life; Resurrected; Glorified in the Divine Life; Becoming the Firstborn Son of God with Many Brothers*

Wednesday 2/24

Related Verses

2 Tim. 4:7

7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

Heb. 12:1

1 Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin

which so easily entangles us and run with endurance the race which is set before us,

Acts 20:24

24 But I consider my life of no account as if precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God.

1 Cor. 9:24-26

24 Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold.

25 And everyone who contends exercises self-control in all things; they then, that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible.

26 I therefore run in this way, not as though without a clear aim; I box in this way, not as though beating the air;

Phil. 3:12-14

12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

Suggested Reading

The most important thing in the Christian life is to seek out the journey which the Lord has ordained and faithfully walk on it. A poor phenomenon among believers today is that many have not found the journey that the Lord has ordained for them. Some, even though they have found it, do not walk on it. This is the reason that their living is filled with so much spiritual death, gloom, and restriction, and this is the reason that there are so many conflicts and arguments in God's work. The most important task for each of us is to put ourselves into God's hand in a quiet, patient, prayerful, consecrated, and obedient way and wholeheartedly seek after His leading. We should be willing to obey Him and act only in accordance with His will. We should pray that He reveal to us the journey He has designated for us. After this, we should pay any price to wholeheartedly walk on it. (*CWWN*, vol. 10, p. 424)

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The entire Christian life is a race. This race is not for obtaining eternal life. On the contrary, only those who already have eternal life are qualified to run the race. At the end of the race, some will receive a crown, while others will not receive a crown (1 Cor. 9:24-25).

Receiving the crown means to obtain the kingdom, which is to become kings to reign and receive glory with the Lord Jesus....There is no problem with a Christian obtaining eternal life. However, his obtaining of the kingdom depends on how he runs the race....All his words, conduct, thoughts, living, and everything about him have to do with whether or not he will obtain the kingdom in the future....Our abandon, consecration, faithfulness, and victory will make us those that receive the crown. But those who desire the world and walk according to their flesh will see that although they have eternal life through the Lord Jesus, the kingdom of heaven is still not theirs.

God has put the kingdom before us, and He has given us a race to run. At the end of the race, we will see if we have failed or won. The winner will reign with the Lord, while the loser, though saved, will have nothing to do with the glory of the kingdom. The race is already set, and those who want to run have to "put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us" [Heb. 12:1]. There are two crucial things in running a race. First, we have to lay aside every weight, and second, we have to put away our sin.

Those who run the race should not only lay aside the sin which so easily entangles them and every weight but should also run the race that is set before them with endurance. Why with endurance? Because the prize is not given at the beginning of the race, nor is it given in the middle of the race. Rather, it is given at the end—the very last step—of the race. We may run well at the start, and we may even run well at the mid-point, but we will not necessarily run well at the end. A victory involves winning at the beginning, at the mid-point, and at the end. Before reaching the end, we cannot guarantee that we will win the prize. We may fail in the last five steps. Once in a two hundred meter running race, a man was ahead of the other competitors by twenty meters at first. No one expected that he would fall down just two meters before the finish line. If we want to win the race, we have to be careful. We cannot say that we will surely win the prize before reaching the end. Even Paul said, "Not that I have already

obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue" (Phil. 3:12). How about us? (*CWWN*, vol. 17, pp. 229-231, 234)

Further Reading: *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 7, Day 3*

Corporate Reading of "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures" Chapter 2 – Sections: *Becoming the Life-giving Spirit; Breathing into His Believers; Exalted*

Thursday 2/18

Related Verses

Heb. 12:2

2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

Psa.27:4

4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; That do I seek: To dwell in the house of Jehovah All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of Jehovah, And to inquire in His temple.

Heb. 2:9

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little inferior to the angels because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death on behalf of everything.

Heb. 12:3

3 For compare Him who has endured such contradiction by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary, fainting in your souls.

Gen. 15:6

6 And he believed Jehovah, and He accounted it to him as righteousness.

S. S. 1:4

4 Draw me; we will run after you-The king has brought me into his chambers-We will be glad and rejoice in you; We will extol your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.

2 Cor. 3:16-18

16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Suggested Reading

May we all be persons who run the race....until the end. Even if we are hurt, offended, misunderstood, and rejected while running, we still have to cheer up and run the race unwearily for the sake of the Lord Jesus. Who receives the most praises in a race? It is the one who is hurt, who rises up again, and who finally wins the first place....Being hurt and suffering are not a problem; even failing is not a problem....Today we are all in the race. Nothing counts today; everything will receive its final judgment at the end of the race. We should not give up, become weary, or faint in our soul for any reason. We ought to look unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith and run the race set before us! (*CWWN*, vol. 17, pp. 239-240)

In verse 2 Paul told the Hebrew believers to look away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of faith. The Greek word translated "looking away unto" means to look with undivided attention by turning away from every other object....The Hebrew believers had to look away from all the things of their situation, away from their old religion and its persecution, and away from all earthly things that they might look unto Jesus who is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God in the heavens.

In all his other epistles, Paul mainly presents to us the Christ who dwells in our spirit (Rom. 8:10; 2 Tim. 4:22) as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45, ASV) to be our life and our everything. But in this book, he points us particularly to the Christ seated in heaven with so many aspects to care for us in every way. In Paul's other epistles, the indwelling Christ is versus our flesh, self, and natural man. In this book, the heavenly Christ is contrasted with the earthly religion and all earthly things. To experience the indwelling Christ we need to turn to our spirit and contact Him. To enjoy the heavenly Christ we need to look away from all things on earth unto Him who is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. By His death and resurrection He has accomplished everything that is needed for both God and us. Now in His ascension He is sitting in the heavens, in the Person of the Son of God (1:5)

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and the Son of Man (2:6), in the Person of God (1:8) and man (2:6), as the appointed Heir of all things (1:2), the Anointed One of God (1:9), the Captain of our salvation (2:10), the Sanctifier (2:11), the instant Helper and constant Succor (2:18), the Apostle from God (3:1), the High Priest (2:17; 4:14; 7:26), the Minister in the true tabernacle (8:2) with a more excellent ministry (8:6), the Surety and the Mediator of a better covenant (7:22; 8:6; 12:24), the Executor of the new testament (9:16-17), the Forerunner (6:20), the Author and Perfecter of faith (12:2), and as the great Shepherd of the sheep (13:20). If we look unto Him as such a wonderful and all-inclusive One, He, ministering heaven, life, and strength to us, will transfuse and infuse us with all that He is to enable us to run the heavenly race and to live the heavenly life on earth, carrying us through all the lifelong pathway and leading and bringing us into glory (2:10).

The wonderful Jesus, who is enthroned in heaven and "crowned with glory and honor" (2:9) is the greatest attraction in the universe, like an immense magnet drawing all His seekers unto Him. It is by being attracted by His charming beauty that we look away from all things other than Him. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, pp. 564-566)

Further Reading: *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 7, Day 4*

Corporate Reading of "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures" Chapter 3 – Sections: The Spirit's Application

Friday 2/19

Related Verses

2 Tim. 4:1, 8, 18, 2, 5

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:

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.

18 The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and will save me into His heavenly kingdom, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

2 Proclaim the word; be ready in season and out of season; convict, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and teaching.

5 But you, be sober in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelist, fully accomplish your ministry.

1 Cor. 2:9-12

9 But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

10 But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

11 For who among men knows the things of man, except the spirit of man which is in him? In the same way, the things of God also no one has known except the Spirit of God.

12 But we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is from God, that we may know the things which have been graciously given to us by God;

Rev. 17:14

14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, will also overcome them.

Suggested Reading

To love the Lord's appearing and to love the Lord Himself are inseparable. If we truly love the Lord, we will love His appearing. All those who love the Lord and forsake everything for Him love also His appearing, that they may receive His reward; those who do not love the Lord, but love the world or love sin, are afraid of the Lord's coming. Therefore, 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. (*Truth Lessons—Level Two*, vol. 1, p. 157)

The crown is a symbol of glory given as a prize, in addition to the Lord's salvation, to the triumphant runner of the race (1 Cor. 9:25). This prize is neither of grace nor by faith as salvation is (Eph. 2:5, 8-9), but of righteousness through works (Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12; 2 Cor. 5:10)...Hence, it is the crown of righteousness. The One who awards it is the Lord as the righteous Judge, not as the

merciful God or the gracious Redeemer. Paul was assured that such a prize was reserved, laid up, for him and would be awarded to him at the day of the Lord's second appearing.

Paul says that such an award will be given to all who love the Lord's appearing. The Lord's appearing, His coming back, is a warning, an encouragement, and an incentive to us. We should love it and look forward to it with earnest expectation and joy. By it, the apostle charged Timothy to fulfill his ministry (2 Tim. 4:1-2, 5).

The crown of righteousness of which Paul was assured is the incentive to the inoculator. If we are faithful to the healthy word of the truth and if we are faithful inoculators to dispense the ingredients of the divine inoculation [against the decline of the church] into Christians today that they may return to the full knowledge of the truth, this reward will be given to us at the time of the Lord's appearing. This means that if we are faithful to the Lord's ministry, we shall receive the crown of righteousness as our reward.

There is a great deal of talk among Christians today concerning the Lord's second coming. But not many believers realize that when the Lord Jesus comes back, He will not come as the merciful God or as the gracious Savior, but as the righteous Judge. Christians should be warned and encouraged to prepare themselves to stand before this Judge. I hope that many among us will take up the burden in this dark age to bring such a solemn charge to the Lord's people. We all need to receive this charge before God and before the Lord Jesus, the One who will judge the living and the dead. We must declare the fact that when the Lord comes back, He will be the Judge of all, both believers and unbelievers. According to Matthew 25, all of the Lord's servants will have to give an account to Him. The Lord will either say, "Well done, good and faithful slave" (v. 21), or, "Evil and slothful slave" (v. 26). In His righteousness the Lord will decide whether or not we receive a reward.

We should not think that the Lord's appearing will merely be a time of rapture and excitement. It will also be a time of great solemnity for every believer in Christ. This was the reason Paul charged Timothy by the Lord's appearing and His kingdom. May we all give heed to this solemn warning. (*Life-study of 2 Timothy*, pp. 62-63)

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Further Reading: *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 7, Day 5*

Corporate Reading of "The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures" Chapter 3 – Sections: *The Spirit Throughout The Word; The Spirit of God; The Spirit of Jehovah; The Holy Spirit; The Spirit Being Not Yet*

Saturday 2/20

Related Verses

1 Thes. 1:10

10 And await His Son from the heavens, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath which is coming.

Rev. 22:20

20 He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Phil. 3:20

20 For our commonwealth exists in the heavens, from which also we eagerly await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Luke 12:22-23, 29-31, 34, 40

22 And He said to His disciples, Therefore I say to you, Do not be anxious for your life, what you should eat; nor for your body, what you should put on;

23 For the life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

29 And you, do not seek what you shall eat and what you shall drink, and do not be unsettled.

30 For all these things the Gentiles of the world are anxiously seeking, but your Father knows that you need these things.

31 However, seek His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you.

34 For where your treasure is, there also your heart will be.

40 You also, be ready, because at an hour when you do not expect it, the Son of Man is coming.

Suggested Reading

My burden is this: When the apostles wrote the New Testament, to them the Lord was coming soon. Hence, the teaching of the New Testament shows us that their living was in preparation for the Lord's return. This is like the situation in which some long-separated relatives are soon

to return. The entire family is prepared to welcome them. It is also like a girl waiting to be married, who knows of the wedding day and who is waiting wholeheartedly for that day to arrive....Each chapter concludes with the Lord's coming back. From this we can see that Paul was one who loved the Lord's appearing (2 Tim. 4:8). We also should be this way. (*CWWL, 1990, vol. 3, "The Vision of the Divine Dispensing and Guidelines for the Practice of the New Way," p. 297*)

Since we love the Lord's appearing, we should earnestly wait for His coming (Phil. 3:20; 1 Thes. 1:10). Hence, our future is with Him. Our living should indicate that we have no other hope on this earth. Our hope is in the coming Lord. He is our eternal destiny. In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul says, "This I say, brothers, the time is shortened. Henceforth both those who have wives should be as though they had none, and those who weep as though they did not weep, and those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, and those who buy as though they did not possess, and those who use the world as though they did not abuse it; for the fashion of this world is passing away" (vv. 29-31). Christ is our real hope.

We may express our desire for the Lord's return in the way of a prayer to Him, calling, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20). We should always call for His coming. This becomes our response to His return. (*CWWL, 1990, vol. 3, "The Vision of the Divine Dispensing and Guidelines for the Practice of the New Way," pp. 297-298*)

The Bible concludes with "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20). From the record in the New Testament, it is not difficult to discover that in their hearts the apostles firmly believed that the Lord would come quickly, and they also lived a life in preparation for the Lord's second coming....On the last day of 1925, Brother Nee went to pray with her, and she prayed, "Lord, do You really mean to say that You will let 1925 pass by, that You will wait until 1926 before You come back? However, on this last day I still pray that You will come back today!" Not long afterward, Brother Nee met her on the street, and again she said to him, "It is really strange that up to this day He has not yet come back."...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" (vv. 16-20). 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 (Phil. 3:20), and always take His coming as an encouragement.

Paul...said that he had fought the good fight, he had finished the course, and he had kept the faith, and that at the judgment seat he would be awarded the crown of righteousness, which would be awarded to all those who have loved His appearing (vv. 6-8). He reminded Timothy, and also us, by the Lord's judgment and kingdom, that we should have a living that loves the Lord's appearing. This will cause us not to be discouraged, not to backslide, not to become weak, but to remain faithful to the end. (*CWWL, 1990, vol. 3, "The Up-to-date Presentation of the God-ordained Way and the Signs Concerning the Coming of Christ," pp. 587-588*)

Further Reading: *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 7, Day 6*

Hymns, #1206

1

We are never weary singing our eternal song:
Glory to God, hallelujah!

We would sing His praise forever with our spirit strong:
Glory to God, hallelujah!

O the children of the Lord have a wondrous song to sing,
For the Lord will by His grace many sons to glory bring.
We are going in that day to the presence of the King:
Glory to God, hallelujah!

2

We are lost amid the rapture of redeeming love:
Glory to God, hallelujah!
We are seeking every moment all its grace to prove:
Glory to God, hallelujah!

3

We are going on to glory as the Lord has told:
Glory to God, hallelujah!
Where the King in all His beauty we shall soon behold:

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Glory to God, hallelujah!

4

There we'll sing His grace and mercy in a glad new song:

Glory to God, hallelujah!

There we'll praise our glorious Savior with the blessed throng:

Glory to God, hallelujah!

Further Reading

Life-Study of 1 Timothy, msgs. 2, 12

Life-Study of Hebrews, msg. 50

CWWL, 1963, vol. 3, "A Brief Definitions of the Kingdom of the Heavens", ch. 5

Lord's Day 2/28

Related Verses

Acts 20:32

32 And now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who have been sanctified.

Phil. 2:12-16

12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmurings and reasonings

15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,

16 Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

1 Cor. 9:24-26

24 Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold.

25 And everyone who contends exercises self-control in all things; they then, that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible.

26 I therefore run in this way, not as though without a clear aim; I box in this way, not as though beating the air;

2 Tim. 4:17, 22

17 But the Lord stood with me and empowered me that through me the proclamation of the gospel might be fully accomplished and all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth.

22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.