

The End is Near

People are always worried for the future. They are worried about what tomorrow's new events, or surprises that they may not be able to deal with. People are worried because tomorrow they may face financial problem, sickness, or disaster. They may be terminated from the work and become jobless. They may have legal problem, persecution, racism, or family problem. All these are in the mind of every man and woman and they carry the same extent of anxiety about tomorrow.

But out of all the days going to come in the future there is one day that really every man should be worried about: This is the day of the coming back of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It would be a glorious day yet it would also be a dreadful day. Jesus said: ***"I tell you the truth; a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who will hear will live."*** (John 5:25) When Jesus will come again all will rise from the dead and will face judgment. ***"Do not be amazed at this for the time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out. Those who have done well will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."*** (John 5:28-29) In His second coming Jesus will not come to forgive sin and show mercy or to do miracles the same as He did in His first coming. But in His second coming He will come to judge the world as He said: ***"Behold I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what He has done."*** (Revelation 22:12)

His second coming would be a glorious day for those who are waiting for His coming. Because Jesus the Lord and Savior will come to take us to our allotted inheritance, the promised Eternal City as Jesus promised: ***"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come back and take you to be with me that you may also be where I am."*** (John 14:1-3) In that Holy City they are going to live with Jesus. ***"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death and mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*** (Revelation 21:4) In that Eternal City the dwelling of God is with men and He will live with them. They will be His people and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

His second coming would be a dreadful day for those who disobeyed God and did not believe in His Son Jesus Christ, as the Bible declares: ***"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars, their place will be in a fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."*** (Revelation 21:8)

His second coming day is near! One day while Jesus was sitting, His disciples came to Him privately. "Tell us," they said. "When will this happen? And what will be the signs of your coming and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered His disciples and He told them what would happen before He comes again:

- 1- ***"Watch out that no-one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, I am the Christ and will deceive many."*** (Matthew 24:4-5) Jesus had already ascended into heaven and He will come back to judge the living and the dead. Yet many are pretending to be Christ Jesus doing miracles and many people are deceived. Jesus

warns us to be careful from them because they are just men like us. Jesus is God, and when He comes again, ***"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heaven to the other."*** (Matthew 24:30-31)

- 2- ***"Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places."*** (Matthew 24:7) We can see clearly that in the world there are wars between countries, between one kingdom and another. As well, we find that the natural disasters are also increasing like earthquakes, Tsunamis, and famines.
- 3- ***"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me."*** (Matthew 24:9) Those who follow Jesus are being persecuted and are not accepted by the wicked because they preach the right way of living – Jesus Christ, the right and the true way to know and to reach God.
- 4- ***"And many false prophets will appear and deceive many people."*** (Matthew 24:11) We now find many false religions around us. People of today are following false prophets and false leaders. People who follow such religions if they are not snatched away from that deception they will end in hell!
- 5- ***"Because of the increase in wickedness the love of most will grow cold."*** (Matthew 24:12) We can also notice that the love of people toward God and toward each other is becoming less, as the Bible declares, ***"But mark this: there will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure than lovers of God."*** (2 Timothy 3:1-4)
- 6- ***"And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."*** (Matthew 24:14) Almost all over the world the name of Jesus have been heard. The Good News about His life and death on the cross for our sins and his resurrection from the dead to give eternal life to every one who believes in Him is continually being preached. Yet there are still people and nations who have not heard the Good News. But do you think it is difficult for God to let the whole world hear about Jesus in one day? Nowadays, with wide spread of high technological communication – TV, radio, internet, media and satellites, the Gospel is quickly spread in the whole universe. If God wills, the whole earth will hear about Jesus in one day. He can do because He is God, and Jesus can come even tonight. The question is: ***"Are you ready for His coming?"***

My dear and beloved: The message to us today is a warning message. Jesus' coming is not only near, not only soon, not only eminent but it can be this very day, it can be tonight. ***"Are you ready to meet Him face to face?"*** Or, are you still living away from God? Don't be deceived! Jesus is coming and He is really coming soon. Let us kneel down and pray from our hearts:

"Heavenly Father, I come before you in the name of Jesus. I surrender all my life into your hands. Forgive all my sins and my shortcomings, I pray. Lord, cleanse me by your blood, purify and draw me near to you. Take me away from this wicked world. I believe that you are coming soon. Take me with you to live with you forever. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen."