

The Lord's Appearing
(1 John 2:28)

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday we pointed out from 2 Timothy 4:8 how the Lord will give "a crown of righteousness" to all who "love His appearing."
2. "The Lord's appearing" [the Lord's return] is a subject that receives a great amount of attention in the Bible.
3. In our lesson we are examining a number of passages that reveal the information we need to know about the Lord's return.
4. Let us begin by pointing out that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE LORD IS GOING TO APPEAR
 - A. (John 14:1-3) Jesus promised His apostles that He will return.
 1. (John 13:33) Jesus informed them that He was leaving them soon.
 2. This information was disturbing to the apostles (John 13:36-37).
 3. The Lord's promise to return was designed to comfort them.
 - B. (Acts 1:9-11) 2 angels told the apostles that Jesus will return.
 1. Jesus was taken up in a cloud.
 2. He will return in the same manner.
 - C. (Revelation 1:7) John, an inspired apostle, said that Jesus will return.
 1. He will come with clouds.
 2. Every eye will see Him.
 - D. According to these verses, there can be no doubt that Jesus will appear.
- II. THE BIBLE TEACHES HOW THE DAY OF THE LORD'S APPEARING WILL ARRIVE
 - A. It will arrive "as a thief in the night" [unexpected] (1 Thessalonians 5:2).
 - B. (Revelation 22:20) "Surely I come quickly" [suddenly, without warning].
 - C. These statements imply that we must always be prepared for the Lord's return.
 - D. We must always be prepared because of . . .
- III. WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES WILL HAPPEN WHEN JESUS APPEARS
 - A. Everything will be burned up (2 Peter 3:10).
 - B. (John 5:28-29) The resurrection and the judgment will occur.
 1. These verses do not specifically mention the Lord's return.
 2. However, they do mention His voice [it will be heard when He returns].
 - C. (1 Thessalonians 4:14-18) When the Lord shouts, the faithful children of God [dead and alive] will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and spend eternity with Him.
 - D. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10) When Jesus appears,:
 1. those who do not know God and who do not obey the Gospel will be condemned to everlasting punishment
 2. He will be glorified among His saints.

Conclusion:

1. No one knows when Jesus will appear (Matthew 24: 36, 42).
2. We need to be ready for the Lord's appearing and be watching for it (Matthew 24:44; 25:13).
3. Keys to being prepared for the Lord's appearing include:
 - a. seeking "those things which are above" (Colossians 3:1-4)
 - b. denying improper conduct and pursuing proper conduct (Titus 2:11-13)
 - c. being diligent to be in good standing with the Lord (2 Peter 3:11-14)
 - d. abiding in Christ (1 John 2:28).
4. (1 John 3:2) Those who are ready for the Lord's appearing will enjoy a great blessing.
5. Are you ready?