

Longing for His Appearing TS006

Why Should We Be Longing? 4133

I. Introduction

A. 2 Timothy 4:6–8

1. God recognizes a special group of believers—those who are in love with Christ’s appearing.
2. There is a *special honor* for these special believers—a crown of righteousness.
3. Do you qualify for that special honor?

B. Titus 2:11–13

1. Grace teaches us how we should live.
2. The motivation for the *way* we live is the anticipation of the coming of the Lord.
3. Most of the appeals to holy living in the New Testament are related to the anticipation of the Lord’s return.

C. Hebrews 9:27–28

Jesus will appear to those who eagerly wait for Him

II. Four Main Reasons to Long for Christ’s Appearing

A. Consummation of our salvation: Transformation of our physical body

1. Phil. 3:8–12, 20–21

- a. Unite your purpose with Christ’s purpose for your life.
- b. This body of humiliation will be transformed into a body of glory.

2. Col. 3:3–4

We will appear with Him in glory

3. John 6:39–40, 44, 54

The result of faith in Christ is resurrection

B. Consummation of our union

1. With *Christ* (Rev. 19:6–7)

2. With *each other* (1 Thess. 4:16–18)

C. Only hope for suffering humanity

1. Christ’s kingdom will banish *all* results of evil and vindicate the suffering and oppressed (Ps. 72:1–14, 102:16–17)

2. Sudden, overwhelming intervention (Dan. 2:31–35, 44)

3. Do not be caught unprepared (1 Thess. 5:2–4)

D. Redemption of creation

1. Romans 8:18–23

2. Psalm 96:11–13

3. Psalm 98:7–9

How Should We Prepare? 4134

I. Personal Holiness

A. Titus 2:11–14

1. Motivation for holy living: anticipation of the appearing of Jesus Christ
2. Zealous for good works

B. 1 Thessalonians 3:12–13

C. 2 Peter 3:11–14

1. Be found in peace
2. Be found without spot
3. Be found blameless

D. 1 John 3:2–3

II. Complete Our Assigned Task

A. Ephesians 2:10

1. God has an assigned task for us to do
2. The fulfilled Christian is the one walking in his assigned task

B. Revelation 19:7–8

III. Continuing Prayer

A. Luke 21:28, 34–36

B. Prayer life determines how successful your Christian life will be

C. The strength to withstand pressure will be found in prayer

D. Life attitude is determined by prayer life

IV. Hasten the Coming of That Day

A. 2 Peter 3:11–12

B. Matthew 24:3, 14—Preach the Gospel to *all* nations

C. Romans 11:25–26—Restoration of Israel to their Messiah

D. Satan's kingdom will stand until two conditions are met:

1. Gospel of the kingdom proclaimed to *all* nations
2. Restoration of Israel to their Messiah

V. Prepare the Way

A. Comfort the nation of Israel (Is. 40:1–3)

B. The message of comfort: God's Word stands forever (Is. 40:6–8)