

Loving Jesus' Appearing Part Two

Introduction/Review: In the final days of the apostle Paul as he was writing to Timothy, he testified to his hope in Christ. Anticipating death by execution, he looked beyond that painful experience to Christ's appearing (2 Tim 4:6-8).

Paul says what remains for us following life on this earth is "THE crown of righteousness."

1. The reward Paul refers to is a _____ condition of righteousness
2. Paul's reward was _____ ("laid up for me")
3. Paul's reward was _____ ("who have loved his appearing")

The Greek word EPIPHANEIA means to become visible. It is used in the New Testament both for the FIRST appearing of Christ at His _____ and the SECOND appearing of Christ for the church at the _____ Titus 2:11-13.

Who are those who truly "love" His appearing?

I. Those who are _____ Eph 2:5-7

II. Those who _____ to see the glory of Christ manifest 2 Thess 1:10

III. Those who are _____ in Christ-righteousness Phil 3:5-9

Note two truths.

1. The proof of our justification is our _____

If your faith has not _____ you it has not _____ you

2. The proof of our sanctification is our _____ for others 1 Thess 3:12-13

IV. Those who do not fear _____ 2 Thess 1:5-10

When Christ returns to earth, it will mean _____ for those who have rejected Him. If you are in Christ, you are guaranteed _____ from the wrath of God and the condemnation it will bring at the second coming of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 - Notice how Paul describes Christians...

- We have _____ to God from idols.
- We _____ God
- We _____ for His Son from heaven
- We know that wrath is coming but we will be _____ from it.

There are two aspects of our longing for Christ to appear:

1. When Jesus comes, _____ will be judged (Acts 10:42)

Every wrong will be made right either by condemnation on the _____ of Christ or by just recompense in _____.

2. When Jesus comes, Christians will be _____ 1 John 4:17

V. Those who anticipate being _____ for faithful service 2 Cor 5:10

When Christ comes for us, our faith will be turned to _____! And when we see Him face to face, we want to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." The rapture will be followed by a time of rewards for faithful service.

The judgment seat of Christ is the place where Christians will stand before the Lord and be recognized and rewarded for their _____ on earth. These are the ways that we served Christ with our _____.

Our labor is a reference to our _____ in building up the Body of Christ and will also be determined by the _____ of our service (gold, silver, precious stones/wood, hay straw). In other words, those whose service is shallow and with inferior motives will forfeit rewards. Nothing that we do for Christ will be _____ (1 Cor 4:5).

Matthew 25 – Parable of the talents. When the master returned, he called each of his servants to give account. Note that they were commended and rewarded for their diligent, persistent _____ (25:14, 16-17, 19-23).

Note in verse 23 that their reward was three-fold:

1. _____ (“**Well done, good and faithful servant**”).

2. _____ (“**You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much**”)
Rev 3:21; Luke 19:17

God’s people are _____. We live to serve God in this life and look forward to serving Him in the future kingdom of heaven. Our faithful service for Christ on earth will determine our service for Christ in His _____ – “you have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much”). We will ALL experience the joy of being with Christ in His kingdom, but our opportunities for _____ in the kingdom will vary based upon our faithful service to Christ in this life (cp Luke 19:11-19).

3. _____ (“**Enter into the joy of your master**”) **Heb 12:2**

Heaven will be a place of undiluted _____ (no sin/struggle with the flesh/physical pain).

Those who have faithfully served Christ on earth long to see His face and hear the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” That will be a cause for great joy! This is what keeps us MOVING _____ as we LOOK _____ (Rev 22:12, 20).

Study Questions:

1. How does the hope of the Christian motivate us to persevere through the trials of this present life on earth (see also 2 Cor 4:17-18)?
2. What is the relationship between our faith and our hope (see Hebrews 11:1)? What causes Christians to become weak in their hope (see Colossians 3:1-3)?
3. How does our hope in Jesus’ return motivate us in the following areas:
 - 1) Evangelism – 2 Cor 5:17, 20; 6:2
 - 2) Ministering to Christians who are sorrowing due to the loss of a loved one – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - 3) Spiritual growth – 2 Peter 3:11-13; 1 John 3:3; 2 John 1:8; Romans 16:20
 - 4) Bible reading – Romans 15:4-5
 - 5) Worship – Romans 15:13; Revelation 22:12-13; 20-21