

**2020 Fall College Conference**  
**NY, NJ & E. Canada**

**FAITH, LOVE AND HOPE FOR THE LORD'S COMING**

Message One

**Waiting for the Lord's Coming**

Scripture Reading: 1 Thes. 1:3; 5:8; 5:23-24; Matt. 25:1-30

- I. The genuine Christian life for the church life is a life of three dimensions in light of the Lord's coming back—1 Thes. 1:3, 9-10:**
- A. Faith as the beginning, the foundation—v. 3.
  - B. Love as the process, the construction—v. 3.
  - C. Hope as the consummation, the completion—v. 3.
  - D. Because we are awaiting the Son of God from the heavens, our future is focused on Him. Our life declares that we have no hope on this earth and no positive destiny in this age, and that our hope is the coming Lord, who is our destiny forever. This governs, holds, and keeps our Christian life for the church life—v. 10.
- II. The Lord's coming is our hope—1 Thes. 1:10; 2:12, 19; 3:13; 4:15-18; 5:1-2:**
- A. The Lord's coming is near as seen in the prophecies and in the current situation of the world today—Luke 18:8; Matt. 24:12.
  - B. We must be sober, watchful and prepared for the Lord's coming—1 Thes. 5:8, 23-24.
- III. The Scriptures reveal to us the way to prepare for the Lord's second coming:**
- A. Preparation in life—by being filled with the Spirit as the extra portion of oil in our vessel (our soul)—Matt. 25:1-13; Rom. 9:21, 23a, 24a; 2 Tim. 2:21:
    - 1. We must believe into the Lord Jesus so that we can be saved and regenerated. Thus, Christ, as the life-giving Spirit, enters into our spirit; this is to have oil in our lamps—Prov. 20:27; 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 8:16.
    - 2. We must let Christ make home in our hearts so that He, as the pneumatic Christ, will saturate our soul (mind, emotion and will); this is to have oil in our vessels—Eph. 3:17; 5:18; 2 Cor. 3:16-18; Matt. 25:3-4.
  - B. Preparation in service—by faithfully using our spiritual talents (gifts)—Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-26:
    - 1. According to the two parables in Matthew 25 and Luke 19, the Lord will judge us according to how faithful we are in using our spiritual talents.
    - 2. The Lord will judge us if we “bury” our God-given spiritual talents in the world (the earth).
    - 3. We should invest our talents in the church (the bank) by coordinating with the saints for fruit-bearing and by ministering the riches given to us by God to others (the money changers)—Luke 19:23; Matt. 25:27.
  - C. Our preparation in life and in service are not two separate things but one thing with two aspects: enjoying Christ as life while giving food to God's household at the appointed time; this is the practice of shepherding—Matt. 24:45.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Consider the role faith, love and hope plays in our Christian life for the church life. How can we apply these three items in the midst of this ongoing turmoil?
2. What are some signs that the Lord's coming is near? With all evidence pointing to His imminent return, what should our attitude be today?
3. How can we gain the oil in our vessels? What are some practical ways that we can exercise the spiritual talents the Lord has given us – especially with most of us being isolated at home right now?