

Rapture or Capture?

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Father this morning we have come to the hearing of the Word. Your Word says, the entrance of Your Word brings light and God is light and there is no darkness in Him. If Your light does not enter our hearts and our minds O God, we will dwell in darkness. But Your Word says, O Lord those who dwelt in darkness, saw a marvellous light. Today I pray Father, not I but You will speak, Your Spirit will speak and even those who are not used to listening for long hours, Your Spirit will constrain them, Your Spirit will grip their hearts and minds that they will be able to focus on what You are trying to tell, allow distractions to fall away and their hearts and minds are set on God, the Lord who will be coming very soon. Touch us O Lord this morning, we need a touch from You, that with confidence and with courage without fear we will enter into the fifth month, speak to us, teach us, empower us to face these days, uncertain days absolutely certain God, teach us Lord, for in Jesus name we pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

I want you to turn to *Revelation 22:20-21* very easy to find in your Bible, those are the last verses in the Bible.

Revelation 22:20-21

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

These are the last verses in the Bible. He who testifies to these things says. Who is that? Jesus. The Spirit of God says, surely, I am coming quickly amen. So, the title of today's message, if it's not been their earlier is, Rapture or Capture? You can choose. God has left the choice to us. The last words recorded in the Bible, and actually the most anticipated event in human history – the second coming of the Lord. This was a message the Lord laid upon my heart this past week and you wouldn't believe as I was coming from the other church, I have one of my kids message on WhatsApp, guess it's from Australia, the message comes in. I saw it only at around eight-forty-five, it came in saying, Rapture vs Second Coming. An entire PDF practically on what I'm speaking today, asking a question. Then I'm almost near Jeevan Jyothi and there's an SUV in front of me, I checked the vehicle too, it was Ford and on the back of that vehicle just before I turned was, 'Amen. Even so, come Lord quickly.'

Now, I'm not saying these are coincidences and divine but you know in the mouth of two witnesses, let the Word be established. Surely I am coming quickly, two thousand years have passed by. It was written almost two thousand years ago, 'Behold, I am coming quickly,' and two thousand years have passed by; don't be a scoffer.

2 Peter 3:3-7

³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the Heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶ by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ But the Heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days. First, scoffers will come. So, don't be a scoffer. Walking according to their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." For this they willingly forget that by the Word of God the Heavens were of old and earth standing out of water and in the water by which the world that then existed perished being flooded with water then but the Heavens and the earth which are now, preserved by the same word are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. And then verses 8 and 9. It says

2 Peter 3:8-9

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing. What is that? With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. So, if God were to say, behold I'm coming quickly in two days, will you say that it is long?

Two days if He says, 'I'm coming.' The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. So, remember one thing, in Heaven time is not measured according to our clock. So, when you are looking into things in Heaven, written from Heaven, don't go by this. Put your watch away, God's timing and God's time does not work on man's parameters and verse 10 says, but there's a day coming.

2 Peter 3:10

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the Heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. It will be unexpected, unless you are expecting it. It will be unexpected. In which the Heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements will melt with fervent heat, both the earth and the works that are in it will be burnt up. Don't get napping, don't get caught unawares. The New Testament is written to the church, actually the whole Bible is written to the church, the Jews who read the Bible don't get anything out of it until the Jew turns to Christ, he reads the Bible with a veil over his eyes but when he turns to Christ, the veil is lifted and he starts understanding his own Scripture. So, practically the whole Bible is written first for them and Jesus Himself in His incarnation being a Jew, from the tribe of Judah but we understand it better. It is written to the Church and the greatest hope of the believing Church is the second coming of Jesus Christ, yet it is the best kept secret in Heaven. Every generation before us, every generation of believers lived in this hope of His coming, every generation lived in this hope. In *Matthew 24:36*

Matthew 24:36, 42, 44

³⁶ But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of Heaven, but My Father only.

Not even Gabriel who is the messenger, not even Michael who is the Arc-angel in charge of Isarel, none of them know, nobody knows when Jesus is coming. *Verse 42*

⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Context wise, He is talking to the Jews but practically it is a warning. For all of us sitting here, there are two certainties; one is death *Hebrews 9:27*,

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

But supposing you and I happens to be the generation when Jesus comes, then it is not death, it is *verse 28*

²⁸ So, Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

So, either it can be death and you meet the Lord or He comes, you meet the Lord. Two certainties for the last generation; either you die and meet the Lord or He comes and you don't die, you meet the Lord. The question is not about His coming, the question, the confusion is always about when His coming is - Before tribulation, after tribulation, mid-tribulation. This message is to the Church. Therefore, the second coming of Jesus Christ is not up for debate within the church, let the outside people debate, don't worry but for us it is not for debate. I want to read Scripture okay. Please give the next twelve Scriptures one by one.

1 Corinthians 1:7

⁷ So, that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Corinthians 16:22

²² If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

This is how the Church lived.

Philippians 3:20

²⁰For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Philippians 4:5

⁵Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. (His coming is at hand)

1 Thessalonians 1:10

¹⁰And to wait for His Son from Heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:6

⁶Therefore, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

1 Timothy 6:14

¹⁴That you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

Titus 2:13

¹³Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Jude 1:21

²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Revelation 3:11

¹¹Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Revelation 22:7

⁷Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Revelation 22:12

¹²And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:20

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

I just gave you thirteen, the New Testament is full of the hope of the people towards the coming of Jesus Christ. Every generation lived with this hope. So, it is not up for debate, the only question is, what are we hoping for? Because faith is the substance of things hoped for. Your faith will take the direction of what you are hoping. So, if you are living in the blessed hope of the coming of the Lord, everything will change; the way you look at life, the way you look at trouble, the way you look at everything. When Paul is writing from the prison and there is an issue and he's encouraging them and there's an issue in the church and everything, do you know what he says? Let your gentleness be evident or known to all men. He says, be gentle and kind to everybody, why? Because when you are shouting, He may come. When you are screaming at your wife, that's maybe when He may come. Because the Lord's coming is at hand. He says, nobody knows when He will be coming. Live in that expectancy, not in fear but in that expectancy that He can come anytime. All the verses are talking about, primarily an imminent coming of Jesus Christ, the only thing is the date and the hour is not given, that is the suspense. You need to understand, if the coming of the Lord, the expectancy is not real for the first century Church, it is not real for any Church in any generation.

Today our children talked about God being the God of generation to generation. Because in the Old Covenant you need to realize a promise is given to Abraham that your seed will possess this land, it is a promise and that promise is passed on to Isaac. Isaac lives with that promise, Jacob lives with that promise, then Joseph goes to Egypt or rather sent out to Egypt and then he brings his family, they die in Egypt and Joseph's last words are that, don't bury me in Egypt embalm me and keep my body because God is faithful and when God take His people to the Promised Land, take my bones. So, they all lived and died in hope but their hope was very temporal connected with a piece of real

estate on earth. Our hope is not that, our hope is completely different. It is not connected with a piece of land, it is not connected with this material world, it is connected with something greater and eternal. If you live without that hope, you cannot face the challenges that you are already going through and the world is going through. Avinash posted on the GTC men's group a video, I'd seen that before. It is a very powerful video, maybe I can post it on the church group. You listen to that video, you will see how the world system is preparing for the anti-Christ, absolutely targeted, absolutely disciplined. They are getting ready. The question is - what is the Church getting ready for? They are getting ready to get the anti-Christ into power, every system is being set into motion, that's why I said in the past three days, 28th, 29th, 30th, three days, all the witches and the wizards and the servants of Satan is gathering at the church of Satan in Boston. It is the tenth anniversary of that Boston Massacre and they are gathering there for these three days and they are invoking all kinds of demons. It's gone mainstream, public. It's there on the news, it is on the mainline news. They are gathering without fear.

I was telling the church that if they had done this two hundred years ago, all of them would have been burnt at the stake, that was America. You would not have the courage to step out and do you wizardry and sorcery two hundred years ago because the country was so absolutely, strongly conservative and Christian. Today they are coming out openly, but the church is aware there are lot of people in Boston, the Church has gathered in Boston to pray, including people from our own churches are there praying in Boston because you don't fear because the Bible says, submit to God and resist the devil and he shall flee. Behold I give you power over all the power of the enemy. You have to believe what He has said and take your stand against these powers, principalities, rulers when the day of evil is upon us. So, they are preparing, the question is, what are we preparing? We will go back around two thousand six hundred years, we will go back in time, the most eschatological; eschatology is about the second coming of Jesus Christ. The most eschatological Book in the Old Testament is the Book of Daniel and honestly, Daniel was seeking something else, many of the discoveries made by the earlier scientist who were very believers were accidents. They were searching for something and they found something else. He was studying the Book of Jeremiah, the prophecies to see when Israel will go back to the Promised Land and because he was searching and searching, he got revelations about when Jesus was coming back and how Israel's history is connected with that. He didn't understand about the gap in that seventy weeks. He didn't understand. Nobody understood because the Church was a mystery that is hidden, nobody understood. It is revealed through Apostle Paul, the mystery was revealed. God hid our story from the eyes of everybody, no prophet understood it that Jesus would have a bride which would be mainly gentiles and a few Jews who would be converted and become Christians. It was a mystery. So, as he was studying, he stumbled literally into a revelation of what would be in the last days, connected with Israel's history. Like I said, he had no idea about the Church. So, if you go to the final chapter of Daniel which is *Daniel 12* some verses which I have put up over there.

Daniel 12:4

⁴ "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

So, there is a prophecy also over there which says, when the end comes knowledge will increase. Now, today, humanly possible, there is no man, it doesn't matter even if he's a genius who can catch up with the knowledge, exponential increase of knowledge, it is impossible, even if you narrow it down, like the human body has been divided by our doctors; you have from your eyebrow to your toes, you have specialists because it is not possible for any doctor to study the whole human body because so much knowledge is available, so much is available and everybody is running to and fro and even if you are not running to and fro, on the internet you are running to and fro. Certain things which are written are possible only in the last days but something was told to Daniel, seal the Book. And *verse 7 and 8*

Daniel 12:7-8

⁷ Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to Heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

It is talking about Israel, it is not talking about us, the three and a half years, time, times, and half a time

⁸ Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?"

He heard, he did not understand. Don't ever read the Book of Revelation and say I understand, that means you didn't understand. That is why there are so many debates over the Book of Revelation and nobody fully understands. The man who wrote it, in that vision he didn't understand. And then next verse

⁹ And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

It is sealed till the time of the end. It will be opened only when the end begins. Till then it is sealed.

¹⁰ Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.¹¹ "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

These things haven't happen. It will happen.

¹² Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

¹³ "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

So, there is a resurrection for Daniel also promised. See, resurrection is not very clear in the Old Covenant. That's why you have the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection, the Sadducees do not believe in resurrection and Paul was very smart, when they both came against him, he put this question of resurrection and made them fight with each other and walked away. But it is there. So, it is sealed. That's what I said, you can't blame the Old Covenant prophets and the Old Covenant people because unless something is unsealed, you cannot know what it means, so when did the unsealing begin. Look at how Peter explains it in *1 Peter 1:9*

1 Peter 1:9

⁹receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

The end of our faith is when our soul is completely and totally saved, okay that is the end that we should work towards, not by faith receiving healing, and resources, all that is good but the end of it is that my soul is completely saved from every influence of this world and of the demonic, completely saved. And next

¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, (that is Jesus)¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from Heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, (that is Jesus) searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you.

He says, they were speaking these things like Daniel, Isaiah, all of them, were speaking these things through the Spirit of God but they did not understand what they were speaking but they were ministering to us. Which have been reported to you through those who have preached the Gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from Heaven—things which angels desire to look into. Even the angels do not know about the second coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, not even the angels know. So, the angels are listening to today's message to see if I can get some clue of His coming because they do not know. This is the most well-kept secret in Heaven. I believe only The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit know. Nobody knows. We can assume, we can get clues, we can understand from science and all but the exact day and hour, nobody knows but things of Christ coming is revealed to the Church and through the Church, the Old Covenant prophets did not know. So do you know when the unsealing began, the unsealing of the Bible began? Let us see, *John 20* how it begins, *John 20:22*

John 20:22

²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Resurrection Sunday evening, He breathed. It begins like that. It begins with the leadership and then goes to the laity. You need to have a leadership before you can have a congregation, right? So, He breathed and the leadership receives the Holy Spirit, that is the eleven disciples, who are there and what happens as a result. *Luke 24:45*

Luke 24:45

⁴⁵And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

See, if you do not have the Spirit within you, your eyes cannot be opened because everything written in the Bible is God-breathed and the people who spoke, spoke through the Spirit. So, Jesus opened their understanding; these are the people who were with Him for three and a half years. They were with Him, they ministered in His name, they cast out demons, healed, they did all kind of things but they didn't understand scripture. It is not that they didn't read Scripture, it's not that they didn't hear the Scripture, they could not understand Scripture because to understand the Scripture, the one who unlocks is the Spirit of God. So, He breaths upon them, says, receive the Holy Spirit and after that He opens their understanding so that they could comprehend the Scripture. So, there is this person, the person of the Holy Spirit in *John 16:13* He says

John 16:13

¹³However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. when He comes, see, we are on the road of truth, on the road to truth and the Spirit of truth has to come. He is the one who will show us and He doesn't speak on His own, He will speak only what He hears. Jesus did not speak on His own, He only spoke what He hears. So, everything proceeds from the Father and the Holy Spirit is the revelator. So, there is this person of the Holy Spirit who lives in each believer and then there is how He does it, which is written in 1 John

1 John 1:26-27

²⁶These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. what is that? The anointing which you have received from Him, the anointing which you received from the Holy Spirit. So, when Jesus begins His ministry, the first thing He says is, the Spirit of the Lord has anointed Me and then He speaks. So, there is the Spirit, the Person and then there is this anointing. The anointing abides in you, you do not need anyone teaching you but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things and it is true and it is not a lie and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. What does it mean? What it means is this, that you are not dependent on me teaching. You are dependent upon the anointing that has rest upon you to understand what God is speaking through me. You are not dependent upon human, then you will go into error but if I go wrong, the anointing will tell you, that is wrong but you have to come to that point, you are dependent upon this two; one, the Person of the Holy Spirit and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, that you consciously seek these both. One, 'Lord have I grieved You as a person, Lord have I grieve You' and you are always aright with the Spirit. If you are right with the Spirit of God, you are right with the Father and the Son. It is as simple as that. If you are right with the Spirit of God, you are right with the Father and the Son, the person and second, you are actually consciously and in truth dependent upon the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the anointing of the Holy Spirit to teach you, and that's what. Abide in Him.

1 John 1:28

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

So you have the Spirit of God and you have the anointing of God that gives us the confidence that when Christ comes we will not be ashamed. So, please understand this is what is happening. So, the unsealing takes place, you know what lets go to Acts 2:14 just two verses we will read there. This is the day of Pentecost, the first sermon preached post resurrection.

Acts 2:14-15

¹⁴But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Books are being unsealed and Peter is the first one through whom the Spirit of God will speak as old prophecies are being unsealed. Joel wrote what Joel did not understand. Revelation is given to Peter and Peter will say, this is what Joel said, in the last days. So, the unsealing begins two thousand years ago and as the unsealing begins you need to understand, when it comes about Jesus and all the things that are connected with the coming of Jesus Christ, remember I used an illustration, you enter into a tunnel and when you enter into the tunnel, the other side you see the sky light as a small speck but as you go further and further, the outside become clearer and clearer meaning, not only is this Book locked when it comes to the second coming of Jesus Christ, as time progresses, it becomes clearer and clearer and clearer, because you know what, lot of things that were written, even our fore-fathers could not understand them because they were locked, not by God but, by time. Because so many things that have come to pass like I said in the last two years so much has happened in this world that lot of things that was written in the Bible starts making sense. But lot of things even two or three years ago would not have made so much sense because time is a revealer and that's what the Bible is talking about. He stood there and now, the unsealing begins and from there, there is an unsealing that is taking place. So, be very careful, be very, very careful because Christ is coming for a prepared people and that's why two things He's waiting for. One, He is waiting because He doesn't want anyone to perish. Second, those who have got it, He wants to prepare His bride, He wants to get His girl ready, so this is the need of the hour, the need of the time. So, turn to *Luke 21* and listen to what He says. Be careful

Luke 21:34

³⁴"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

Three things, carousing, that is pleasure, drunkenness, you are not sober and the cares of this world. Be very careful, be very careful. Like I keep telling people who call me for prayer, who come for counselling. You have problems but keep it outside, you allow the problems to get in, you will miss the hour of His coming. When the prophecies are that the days towards the end are going to be so evil and troublesome, you need to know and prepare for it. You cannot take your eyes off your target, your eye is on Him. Keep your eyes fixed on Christ Jesus. There are pleasures on one side, there is drunkenness on one side, and there are cares on the other side. You will say, I am not carousing, I am not drunken but are you sunk in your grieves? All the responsibilities, may be you have so much responsibilities, you are weigh down by them, God says, be careful. There was nobody who ever walked on earth, who carried more on His shoulders than Jesus Christ. But after He had met His Father every morning, early morning, He walked down through the day without having that burden weighing Him down. He taught us a way because you know what, you don't want to miss God's appointed timing, we don't want that day to come upon us unawares and we are unprepared. Verse 35 for it will come as a snare, a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Luke 21:35

³⁵For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

It will come as a trap on everybody. So, it is not talking about some other event, it is talking about His coming and then verse 36

Luke 21:36

³⁶Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Watch therefore and pray always, not just pray always, watch and pray. Watch therefore and pray always that you may be counted. We wish this word wasn't there but it is there, I can't take it off, you can put sticker over it, it doesn't change the truth, you may be counted. Now this is not about Salvation. Salvation is for the unworthy, rapture is for the worthy. Salvation is for the unworthy, rapture is for the worthy. Counted worthy to escape, not to go through, to escape all these things that will come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man. That's why God gave ultimately the Church one entire Book in the New Covenant called the Book of Revelation to which a special blessing is promised. Those who read, those who meditate, those who practice this Book, prepare, they are blessed, special blessing given. Why? To be prepared. Don't be caught unawares because days are not easy and if the days are easy,

then it is dangerous; carousing, drunkenness, we are not talking about drunkenness as being drunk with wine or liquors, it's not talking about that. It is when you have lost your spiritual sobriety. To make spiritual decisions, you need to be spiritually sober. Do not be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Holy Spirit. Don't be so consumed by the world that you lose your spiritual balance, that you are walking around like a drunken man. Be careful! So, the Book of Revelation, you have Jesus personally, giving that vision, taking John in Spirit, showing him things and writing seven letters to seven churches. There are so many ways you can read these letters, so many applications but to seven letters. We are not looking at the seven churches but the first church is an extremely sound church. When it comes to doctrine, when it comes to works, they have wonderful doctrine and they have wonderful ministry but that church failed the cardinal test of love. *In Revelation 2:5,*

Revelation 2:5

⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Why? He says you have lost your first love. So, look at the indictment. He says, 'I will come to you quickly, what will I do?' He's not talking about rapture, 'I will just remove your lampstand.' Now, if you go to *Revelation 1:20* you will know what it is.

Revelation 1:20

²⁰The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

So, what is the lampstand there? It is a church. He says, your doctrine is fantastic, your works are great but everything in the Kingdom of God is motivated by love and you have fallen away from your first love. If you don't repent and return back to your first love, I will come and remove the lampstand. He says, 'You will cease to exist in My eyes as a Church.' You may be gathering but you will no longer be a church, you will no longer be an ecclesia because you gather in a building with a Cross on the top does not make you a church, a church is a church if God says, it is a church and for a church to be a church, God has set parameters. It is not only doctrine, it is not only works. He says, 'Why do you do what you do?' Because the entire law and the prophets, everything hangs on these two hinges – love God, love your neighbor. He says, 'If that is not the reason you do,' He says, 'you have just become a gathering; a club with good rules and good works. Even the lodge does that. He says, 'There's no love.' So, the first church is indicted. When it comes to the second church, there is no indictment, nothing negative to that church but no promise of escape. In *Revelation 2:10* He says,

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

He says, 'Smyrna, you will die, you are going to go through tribulation. You will die but still I expect one thing from you, be faithful until death. If you are faithful till death, I will give you the crown of life.' Pergamum is faithful but false doctrine has infiltrated. So, He says in verse 16, 'Repent or else I will come to you quickly, not so that you escape tribulation, no. I will fight against them with the sword that comes from My mouth. I will deal with your false doctrines. I will deal with you, I will get your doctrine right,' He says, 'I will come and fight you.'

Revelation 2:16

¹⁶Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

When it comes to Thyatira there are just a few

Revelation 2:24-25

²⁴Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ But hold fast what you have till I come.

So, to them there is a promise given, just hang in there till I come. So there is a church, to whom it is promised, your doctrine is wrong, you got a lot of things but there are some among you in this church, there are a few who have not messed up their lives listening to that. Hang in there till I come. In Sardis,

Revelation 3:1-3

¹“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: ‘I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³ Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.⁴ You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

So, there also there is a promise of coming but if you look from verse 4 there are a few in this church in Sardis He says, who haven't stained their garments. So He is talking about different kinds of churches from this previous one onwards which will be there in the last days. And in each of these churches, there will be a remnant who have remained faithful. That's what He's saying, for you have few names even in Sardis – that is the mainline churches. Even in the mainline churches there are always a few who have not defiled themselves. O don't say that is mainline, don't ever think that way. In all these churches there are few people always who have not defiled their garments and they shall walk with me in white, why? For they are worthy. What did Jesus say? You must be counted worthy. Like I said, yesterday also, when you stand before God, you are not judged for your beliefs. To enter into the Kingdom of God, you are judged by your beliefs but to stand before God, you are judged by your words and your works.

Every word, careless word, you will have to give an account on that day. You will be judged for your word and you will be judged for your works. You won't be judged for your doctrine, that is here, your doctrine will take you in one direction or another but when we stand before God, God will not give you a quiz examination on your doctrine. Tell Me the elementary teachings in Hebrews. He's not going to ask doctrine. Because where we have reached is where your doctrine reached you. Now you will be judged by your words and by your works. When it comes to Philadelphia, the sixth church mentioned, again no indictment. Smyrna and Philadelphia are the only churches with no indictment, not even asking them to repent. Smyrna is not asked to repent, Philadelphia is not asked to repent, no indictment. Look at them

Revelation 3:7-8, 10

⁷ “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens’’: ⁸ ‘I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

When that hour comes upon the whole world, He says, you will escape. So, Smyrna is not given that promise, to Smyrna He says, be faithful unto death, to Philadelphia alone is that promise given, that when that hour comes, when tribulation comes because the question is not about rapture, the question is when. Nobody is questioning rapture, everybody wants to know when, before or after. I have kept an open door who dwell on the earth and even to them there is a word of exaltation in verse 11. He says hold fast,

Revelation 3:11

¹¹Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Don't get lethargic towards the end of your race, don't get. That is how the devil will distract us. When you are about to finish. I always advise children who are in class ten and class twelve, I said, 'Be careful because these are life defining classes. In class ten the best student when he is studying very well, in the fourth month of the academic year, he falls in love and he forgets everything else and he flunks. This is not the time for love, there is a time and a season for that, again class twelve, one girl will wink at him or a boy will look at her, gone, best student is gone down the drain. You got distracted.' And a lot of Christians are like that. They are running the race very well, they are absolutely on fire, zealous and then something happens, they get distracted and before you know it, it's gone. The zeal is gone, the fire is gone, everything is gone. That's why He tells Philadelphia, you have obeyed My command to persevere. Three qualities needed in the last days to finish your race - Patience, Endurance and Perseverance. They

are not the same, they are kind of always connected. Three things through the Bible it says, he who endures till the end shall be saved. *You obeyed My command to persevere, brethren, be patient until the Lord comes.* Patience, Endurance, Perseverance.

So, get these things. How do I prepare? How will I be counted worthy of the Lord to escape all these things that is coming upon us? And it is coming upon us. So, the question is - where are we? Will it be rapture or capture? The question about rapture is this, is it secret, is He coming for the Church alone first and then later, He will be visible to the whole world? This is where the confusion comes. That's why we have so many schools but acknowledge them, love them, read them. What I tell all these pre, post, mid-tribulation is this, don't create tribulation in the Church. That is the anti-Christ's job, you don't have to do that. Hold on to your opinions, be kind to one another and listen to everyone because each one has his own points. The point is that the more you study all three groups, you can only get better prepared. You don't have to take your sword out and cut each other. That's how Pentecostal husband and wife fight, they cut each other with the sword of the Spirit, 'It is written, you shall love your wife,' 'it is also written, submit to me in all things.' That's how they fight. Pentecostal husbands and wives fights a different, they are very scriptural. When they fight, they allow the sun to go down on their anger. They will be sleeping with their backs against each other and both will be praying in tongues. 'Lord, I cannot understand her, so I'm praying in the Spirit,' she says, 'Lord, this man You gave me, I don't understand him, so I'm praying in the Spirit,' and they will quote Scripture for that too. So, the whole issue is about tribulation. It is not that there hasn't been tribulation for two thousand years but the difference of the last day's tribulation is in Jesus' own words, you have to look at what He says and you have to take it very seriously. What He actually says,

Matthew 24:21-22

²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, nor ever shall be. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Who said it? Jesus said it. So there has always been tribulation. Now, He is not talking about that tribulation. He's saying, now we talk about the tribulation the Church has gone through, the time of Nero, the time of the Spanish inquisition and all that. You mean there is going to be a tribulation worse than all of these? Jesus said so, worse than all of these and unless those days were shortened, no flesh will be saved but for the elect sake, those days will be shortened. He's saying, 'If I didn't shorten those days, everybody will perish, nobody will survive.' Now, these things written did not make any sense to any generation except ours because this was not factually possible in any generation except ours. Do you know in the past two years, there is a word that is being thrown around which was never used? which is nuclear war. It was never used, what was that? Nuclear war and that's where the Ukraine war and they are openly talking about using it. You have threats going on. The Russian defence minister is saying that London will cease to exist. They are openly saying it. You know if a Nuclear war begins, within seconds, the world will cease to exist. These things did not make any sense until our days. Within weeks or months, Iran who's been threatening always to wipe Israel out of the map, will become a Nuclear power. We are talking about things which have been unsealed before our own eyes and God says, when the world comes to that point, if it happens all of us will perish. In a twinkling of an eye, we will be vaporized. It doesn't matter which part of the globe you are living in, nobody is going to escape but God has His Word written that when He comes, He will take the Church out, He will gather the Elect from the four corners. So, He is not going to let this happen because His Word is forever settled in the Heavens. So, when you see all these things happening, and you hear and that's what God says, watch and pray. So, when all these things are happening, we shouldn't get scared, we should be having a quickening in our spirits. He says, lift up your heads because your redemption draweth nigh. So, there is a tribulation that is promised like never before and *verse 30, 31*

Matthew 24:23-24

²³ "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 24:30-31

³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in Heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other.

The problem here is, in this everybody sees Him coming. This is where the confusion comes. So, are you only coming and everybody will see? So, what is this rapture people are talking about because this, everybody sees, it is visible to the whole mankind. So, the billion-dollar question is, before this happens, is there a secret coming? Lord I want to know one thing, because the elevator goes in two directions. It comes down and goes up, so I want to know one thing, are you coming down or am I going up. That is the question, because when You come down, You want to come down on mount Olives, it's going to split, then the saints are going to rule with You for a thousand years. So, if You are coming down, then I'm not going up. I'm talking to the generation that will be living when He comes. These things apply only to one generation, only one generation, the generation that is alive when He is coming, all the others, it doesn't apply because they are already dead, the dead in Christ shall rise first. We are not talking about them. Every generation is living in this anticipation, 'In my time He will come,' if He is coming in my time, the question is - am I going up or is He coming down? Am I going up before the tribulation? or I goofed-up and He is coming down at the end of tribulation. That is the question. So, there are lot of tribulation saints who will believe after seeing, some will survive, some will be killed and He will call the elect from all corners. Is that what it's going to be or do I escape before all that. The question to simply ask is, if we are the last generation to use the illustration of the elevator/lift, what is it going to be, are You coming down or am I going up? *John 14*, the Lord's own words about His second coming when He speaks actually for the first time He speaks.

John 14:1-3

¹Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

So, there He says, 'I am coming for you and I'm taking you there.' So, here this is the comfort, He is coming for us and He is taking us to Him. 'I am going, I am preparing a place,' but that is not the second coming, in the second coming He is coming down with the saints and He is going to rule the earth for a thousand years. So, this is not talking about that. He's not preparing a place on earth, He is preparing a place elsewhere. I'm not giving you a doctrinal statement. I'm saying use your own brains ask the Holy Spirit, Lord, because the secret things belong to God. We have to go through Scripture and be not very dogmatic but all we can do is prepare and count ourselves worthy as what He says is worthy and we go through the seven churches and take it personally what God is speaking to each church through the Pastors, those are the angels of the churches and see where do I fall short. Where did Ephesus fall short? Where did Sardis fall short? Smyrna is fine, Philadelphia is fine. You look at the commendation God gives the other five and the indictments He gives the other five and looks at the commendation He gives the other two and try to personally apply. That's how. Because you can only prepare yourself personally, you cannot prepare another person. If you can prepare another person, then the verse wouldn't be written, two will be in their bed and one will be taken. The husband can minister to his wife, he cannot prepare her. The wife can pray for her husband, she cannot prepare him. Each one only can prepare yourself. So, this is a person thing. It is a personal preparation and that's where it comes. In His second coming, like this in His second coming in *Revelation 20:4-6*,

Revelation 20:4-6

⁴And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

This is talking about when Jesus comes physically unto planet earth. One set of the people will be resurrected, other ones who were beheaded during tribulation, they will rise but He is coming with another set of people, He is coming with another set of people. Now if you go to *Jude 1:14-15*

Jude 1:14-15

¹⁴Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

So, He is coming down with ten thousand of saints and there is a resurrection of those who were beheaded during tribulation and all of them will reign for a thousand years. So, the problem is the saints who are coming down, when did they go up? These are questions we need to ask? Like I said, this question is applicable only to the last generation and every generation has to live as if they are the last generation. Heaven's best kept secret. *Matthew 24*

Matthew 24:36

³⁶But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of Heaven, but My Father only.

So, we saw that already, nobody knows that. It is a secret nobody knows. We can only prepare but go to *Luke 21:32*

Luke 21:32

³²Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.

Assuredly I say to you. Now, if you look at Matthew 24 and Luke 21 and Mark 13 are the eschatological chapters in the gospels about Jesus talking about His second coming. Matthew 24, Luke 21, Mark 13. In Luke 21 a whole list is given of things that will happen before He comes and then after that He says, assuredly I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. He says, that generation, that is living when all these things starts happening, they will herald His coming. We have a term in theology which is called convergence. Convergence means lot of things have been prophesied. It talks about wars, it talks about pestilences, it talks about earthquakes, it talks about famine but when all these things start converging together, watch out especially when it starts happening at a global scale. The difference here is that even if it happens on a global scale earlier, nobody knew it. Like I said, there are people who lived through Second World War without knowing there was a world war going on. Today it is not possible. Media has infiltrated, the communication system has been revolutionized literally. So, when all these things happen, that generation if you happen to be that generation; I am one generation, you are another generation. It's shown by dye and not die, some people dye monthly, some people die daily. So my generation, your generation I don't know in which generation He is going to come. But if He comes, He says, be warned, convergence. And *verse 33-36,*

Luke 21:33-36

³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.³⁴ "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. Take heed to yourself, again He is says, be careful lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all, so, watch therefore and pray always. He comes back to that again. He says you be that generation be careful. See, it is only we in this generation, when we look into our father's generation and we are able to say, it couldn't have happened then because we have more knowledge but if you were to be transported into their time zone, they look and say, it is happening in our generation because they are looking at it with the information they have. But as time is progressing, knowledge is progressing, knowledge in the world and knowledge about the Kingdom, the prophetic knowledge increases, our eyes and ears should be tuned to what the Spirit is doing. Be very, very careful. That is the whole question. So, like I said tribulation has always been there but this is different. Why is it different? Go to *Revelation 6:16, 17; 14:19; 15:1*

Revelation 6:16-17

¹⁶and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

So, what is this? This is the wrath of God.

Revelation 14:19

¹⁹So, the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

This is the wrath of God. Now, we don't understand this illustration but the Jews and the people of that time, you have these huge vats into which the grapes are put and there are holes at the bottom and people with washed feet, not unwashed, washed feet get it and stamp on it and the juice comes out. So, the Bible says the blood that will flow on the earth, He gives you the level and the distance because the wrath of God has come in. He is going to allow destruction to happen. So they understood.

Revelation 15:1

¹Then I saw another sign in Heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

So, the question about tribulation is that, will I go through this. *John 3:36*

John 3:36

³⁶He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

So, if I have believed, if I am truly, truly saved, the wrath of God does not abide on me, I've escaped the wrath of God. So, if you are the last generation living and when the wrath of God is going to be poured upon the earth, you need to understand something about the wrath of God in the last days. I don't understand that verse but I'm trying to think scientifically, putting aside my spiritual cap and putting by scientific cap. There is one thing the whole world is trying to discover. They are trying to discover immortality, they want to live forever and I don't know if they will crack it. And if they crack it and they live forever and the wrath of God comes, men will want to die but can't die, it is written. They will wish. Whatever potion, medicine, scientific breakthrough, I wish I hadn't taken this; death was better. But we are not meant for wrath. We are children of God, we are not meant for wrath, because we passed that wrath. The wrath of God fell upon Jesus Christ on the Cross, we took shelter under Him, we believed in Him, we escaped the wrath.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

⁹For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

God did not appoint us to wrath. I'm just trying to tell you what God is trying to say. My job is to present the Scriptures. That is why I said we will read lots of Scriptures. Your wisdom, your faith, your hope should not rest on the wisdom of man, it should rest upon the Word of God. And go back and study, because this is the greatest event the church has been waiting for 2000 years. There is nothing greater than this. So the question is – will the Church escape? Will the Bride escape? We have to look through Scripture, everywhere because almost every epistle is written to prepare the Church, to go home.

We pick from here and there whatever we like from Scripture which is connected with this world, we name it and we claim it and we blame Him. That is the new theology – name, claim and blame. But that was not Scripture was for. Yes, we should live here, we should occupy till He comes but the whole thing is that you should think of yourself as a pilgrim. It doesn't matter how much you like the pilgrimage you want to go home. You should about yourself as a sojourner. Our forefathers in the faith suffered for our sake not knowing what they were doing. "Abraham" Yes Lord, "You will never build a house." Yes Lord. How long will I live in the Promise Land? "100 years." 100 years no house? "No house." Only in a tent? "Yes, only tent." Isaac, how long will you live? 180 years, he lived in the Promise Land longer than his father, Abraham. Did he build a house? No. Did Jacob build a house? No. Because they were examples to us; they lived like sojourners and pilgrims in the Promise Land. Did they understand what was happening to them? No. But we understand. You know what, poor Abraham had to live 100 years in a tent for my sake so that I will live like a sojourner in this world, because my home is there (Heaven), not here. I am not going to get attached here. It is not that you shouldn't have an apartment or anything, but there are no attachments here. We have something which we need to ask the Spirit of God, which is called the Teflon coating; nothing of the world sticks. Nothing sticks, that is how we live.

You need to realise, people have gone ahead of us. There is something written in Scripture in *1 Corinthians 10:11, all these things*, meaning practically everything that happened in the past that have been written happened to them as examples, for whom? And they were written for our admonition, for our training. Why? Upon, whom? The end of ages has come. The people who live in the last of the last days, for them all these things will start making sense. Go back home and do your homework, *1 Corinthians 10:1-10* and look at the five things that kept the first generation

out of the Promise Land and beware of those five things. Even if it's a small thing in our own minds of grumbling and complaining, it kept them out of the Promise Land. And in the New Covenant too, about the second coming, we are warned about grumbling, the Lord, the Judge is at hand. We take this grumbling and complaining so very lightly without realising that if I am grumbling, if I am a complainer and I murmur then I am not worthy to escape. Then when tribulation comes and you go through it then you will say, 'O Lord, I am so sorry, I complained. Those days very much better, I shouldn't have complained. And now I have so much to complain about.' All your grumbling and complaining will be over during tribulation. You will be grateful for every mercy of God before the tribulation started. You will be truly grateful.

So learn these lessons. These things are not learnt in one day, these things need to be lived out.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

¹Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ²not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

He says, one thing you will realise is that the church will start falling away. Not that they stop gathering but you will see they will start falling away from the doctrines that were once and for all handed over to the saints. Like I said, May 10th, coronation of King Charles III, couple of billion people are going to watch from all over the world, the pageantry and everything that is going to happen in Westminster, in the Church, and arch Bishop of Canterbury will do all this thing. But do you know who Arch Bishop Justin Welby is? He is pro-gay and he is for ordaining gay clergy. So a British king, who is supposed to be the custodian of faith is going to be crowned by an arch bishop who is gay, who is pro-gay. Do you know where the church has come to? Where we have come to? That is why you see this falling away.

You see the western world, which is supposedly the christian world, what do you see? You see falling away. This will start – ***and the man of sin, the man of lawlessness is revealed.***

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8

⁶And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

God is saying, the mystery, the lawlessness is like yeast. You put it into the dough. You put it in, everything looks normal in the night but when you come back in the morning the dough has risen. Why? It is because the yeast is working. The mystery to lawlessness is working in the world and one day suddenly it will rise up. But who is keeping him down? He who restrains. The Restrainer. Who is the restrainer? The Holy Spirit. But where is the Holy Spirit? In the Church. So if He is removed, the Church is removed. There is a restraining Church; there is still a Church which has a voice, which will stand against this evil, which will refuse to compromise, numbers may come down like Philadelphia, it doesn't matter – 'You have not denied My Name. Philadelphia, you kept My Word, you did not deny My Name. Though you are very little, (you are not a mega church) you don't count your money, you count God and you count the souls, so you refuse to compromise. You did not deny My Name. You kept My Word and you did one thing; you obeyed My command to persevere. You never quit, you never changed your doctrine, you never stopped loving. You never changed. And therefore I will keep an open door for you.

How does the Restrainer restrain? It is because there are still saint voices, there are still sane voices. There is a shaking that is happening around the world, you must be blind not to see it. There are still voices that refuse to compromise. When the whole west is compromising, do you know, there are pastors and priests and Bishops in Africa, in Uganda and Rwanda who refuse to compromise and tell the Anglican Sea, 'We will quit and we will come out if you continue like this. We refuse to accept your new changes. We will hold on to the faith that was once and for all handed over.' That is why God said, 'The last will become the first and the first will become the last.' Now it is reversed; it is the Africans and the Asians who are speaking to the British and the Americans. 'You compromise, we will not. Yes we got the Gospel through you, now we are preaching back to you, this is the Gospel. You change, but we will not. We will stick with the Word.'

The question we need to ask ourselves is – do we have deep rooted convictions that will not change? Because Philadelphia had. The Restrainer. Who is the Restrainer? It is the Holy Spirit. Where is He? In the believing Church. So the assumption is that when the Holy Spirit is lifted, the Ecclesia is gone. Now if the Ecclesia is gone, the man of lawlessness, the man of perdition and the demonic is given free-hand. Is this what you wanted? You wanted the flesh, the world and the demon? You can have it. For a short period the devil is let loose on earth. He is given. And if you have a picture in *1 Samuel 16:14*, this is a picture in the Old Covenant of what happens.

1 Samuel 16:14

¹⁴ But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.

When the Holy Spirit leaves, the demonic comes. The world will see, like the days of Noah, like the days of Lot what demonic activity is. You wanted them? You can have them, God says, 'I will take My Church, I'll take My Spirit and I will take My Girl out. The world is for you.' He says, 'You can have them.'

So how does He come for the Church? How does Jesus come for the Church? We have to look through. Like I said, one of the earliest letters that was written by God, through Apostle Paul, given to the Church other than James, it was to Thessalonians. It was to answer this question.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, those who have died. We also say, fallen asleep in Christ; you fall asleep here and you wake up there, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. So this verse is applicable only to the generation which is living when Jesus comes. So each generation lived with the assumption that He will come in their time. So he says, 'Some of our dear brethren have died, they are asleep in the Lord. We are alive.' He is saying, 'when He comes their souls, their spirits will come with Him. And we who are alive,' what will happen? ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. There are three things, but let me tell you, the world will not hear it. Those who have ears let them hear what the Spirit says. Can you hear with your physical ears? No. God can speak where one person can hear and the other cannot hear. God can do like in the Road of Emmaus where He can walk with them and speak to them and close their eyes so that they don't recognise Him.

This is not going to happen where the whole world see; this is only to the believing Church.

For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Basically what he is saying is that those who have been buried, whatever and wherever they are, what happens is that their souls, their spirits will be united with their bodies. But their bodies will be different; they will receive their resurrection bodies. And that is what they are all waiting for – 'How long? How long? How long?' They are waiting because nobody has got their bodies. Jesus, alone, is the One in the New Creation who has the Body, no one else has got their body, they are all waiting for a body. He is the first One to rise from the dead with a new resurrection Body. And we know the state of that body; you can fly up and down, you can go through walls, shut doors make no difference, He eats and He travels faster than the speed of light; He is in Heaven one second and with His disciples the next second. So there is a new body that you are going to receive and they all know the nature of the Body and the character of the Body and the glory will differ depending upon your faithfulness. But that is the nature of everybody's body, and they are all waiting for that body. God says, they will not get their body now, everybody will get it together.

So all those who are dead are waiting. But where are they? They are with Christ. So when they come with Him, ***the dead in Christ will rise first, ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.***

So He is not coming here, we are going up. So we are going up. Yes He is coming down but we are going up. But in His second coming we are not going up, we are coming down with Him. In *1 Corinthians 15* he says- in the twinkling of an eye there will be a transformation. Even those who are alive and saved, who are counted worthy, in a twinkling of an eye our bodies will change. First, everybody will have the nature of that new body. Second, we will differ in glory. Our glory won't be the same. Our glory will be measured according to God's judgment. It is like how we have

in movie industry; we have stars, superstars and mega stars. *As stars differ in glory*, the Word of God says, *and the saints who have brought many into righteousness will shine forever and ever.*

That is why we keep telling you to witness, bring at least a few people into the Kingdom of God because it will be shone on that day, the glory. Don't sit like pickle in the jar, your job is to go out and witness. 'Lord, let me be a witness. Lord, let me be a witness. Let me bring a few souls into the Kingdom of God.' Why? It is because there is a promise given – your glory will be different, for you turned people to righteousness. So that is what happens. ***And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*** So there is something that is happening, where the dead and the living all are transformed, in the twinkling of an eye. Verse 18 is interesting,

1 Thessalonians 4:18

¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Every generation who is going through troubles and trails, comfort them that the Lord is coming. Our greetings are different, 'Praise the Lord.' But the greetings in the persecuted churches is different – 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!' Their greeting is different because they are always creating this expectation – what am I waiting for? I am waiting for the Lord's coming. That is what in *Corinthians* Paul says – 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! And if anyone does not have that desire, let him be accursed'. Meaning, let him stay back, God take the others. That is how they lived. This is how you comfort one another. Next time you see someone in trouble, try telling them, 'Don't worry, Jesus is coming soon.' They might say, 'I don't want to hear all that. I just want to get out of my problems.' But that is the way you get out of all your problems. It is the end of all problems. How do we see?

We will read a lot of Scripture because Scripture is more powerful than any man's words. Read carefully,

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. What does it mean? Thessalonians Church in Thessalonica was a biblically sound church. 'I don't have to write to you, but I am still writing to you. I know that you all know all these things.' How did these people know all these things when this is the first letter? Think about it, with so many translations and multiple bibles in our hands we don't know anything. But these people don't have a Bible yet know everything. What kind of church is this? That means they listened very carefully to the preachers. Nobody has any Bible with them. New Covenant has not been written. This is the first letter that has been written and they know everything about the times and the seasons because they are carefully studying the Old Covenant because the veil has been lifted and they are able to understand the New Covenant through the Old Covenant. They were Bereans, they were Thessalonians. *The Bereans were more noble than the Thessalonians.* The Thessalonians were noble and he says, 'you know concerning the times and the seasons. I don't have to write to you. You know.' ***²For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.*** So they heard very well, Jesus teaching, others teaching, they had heard and rehearsed it over and over again. In the church they did not fall asleep or cry out, 'How long' they did not even have a watch to see when the sermon will stop. And preachers were not like me, they were like Paul who will keep on preaching until a man falls and dies, Paul raises him up and continues preaching. They never stopped this, because their agenda was clear – they preparing a people for the Lord's coming. And the people were being prepared for the Lord's coming. So you have a congregation that were being prepared for the Lord's coming and a pastor who were preparing them, so they knew all things. ***³For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.*** ***⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*** This day should not suddenly catch you by surprise. ***⁵You are all sons of light and sons of the day.*** God is light. Go back and read *1 John 1* God is light and anyone who says that he is in the light but walks in sin is lying. You are in darkness. You are sons of light and sons of the day. ***We are not of the night nor of darkness.*** ***⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*** He is not talking about physical sleep. We all need to sleep. He is talking about spiritual sleep. ***⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.*** ***⁸But let us who are of the day be sober,*** first things God says is be sober. Be sober, ***putting on the breastplate of faith and love,*** only one thing matters – faith working through love. He says, put it on. When you stand outside against the enemy, you hold the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit. But we are talking about the inside the church. Inside the church you don't need the shield of faith and the sword. Cover yourself with breastplate of faith and love. Absolute, total assurance in what God has said and your heart is consumed by the love of the Father. That is why the Bible says, 'Do not love the world or the things in the world.' The problem is, if you love the world or the things in the world, the love of the Father won't be in us and if the love of the Father is not in us we will not be able to love God or love man as God wants us to love. It is the love of the

Father. It is not my own love, it is not my own capacity. It is the love of the Father that enables me to love God and love my neighbour the way God wants me to. What happens is if you love the world and the things in the world, that Love goes. So he says, put on the breastplate of faith and love **and as a helmet the hope of salvation**. Secure. Simple secure in the mind, no doubts, am I saved? People wake up one morning, 'Today I feel saved,' by evening they are down, 'I think I am unsaved. I feel unsaved.' What happened to your helmet? ⁹ **For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.**

The question is – are we doing it? Are we that generation? Like every generation, the saints prepared themselves, 'Maranatha!' Like when Paul is writing the letter to the Corinthian Church, he says, 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!' in every letter. And when John writes - Jesus says, 'Behold I am coming quickly,' the Spirit and the Bride say, 'O Lord, come!' is that our response? When we were young growing up in the Catholic Church, this was our response, 'Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.' We didn't even understand what mercy was. We responded with our mouth, now after getting saved we understand what those words mean. Behold I am coming quickly. It is not just the Bride. But the Spirit and the Bride who said it. This is the Spirit-filled Bride, she said, 'Come Lord.' So how do you prepare? Because we need to prepare and the whole thing is about preparation. We need to prepare.

Titus 2:11-15

¹¹ **For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,** so if you are looking for the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ, there is particular way you need to live. And that is what you will use grace for. Grace is the power of God. What are you using it for? Like I said, grace is like money, what are you using money for? To buy what you need in this life. God said, I will come with grace upon grace. And out of His grace we have received blessing upon blessings. First, are you receiving the teaching of grace? And then are you appropriating that grace to live this way? Even as you are looking forward. Like I gave you an example long time back. We are Indians! That itself is a statement. But my wife is not. So whenever I am dealing with my wife I don't treat her like an Indian. You know how she is finicky about everything. So I will go before her (like the king's herald) and see that wherever she is going it is all spick and span. Why? Because she is not Indian. The toilet she will use I will even wipe it because I know if it is dirty she will start scrubbing, but I want her to rest. Why? It is because she is not Indian. So if He is so holy and pure, no eye can behold Him and when His glorious appearance is coming, how does the Church prepare? What is the teaching of grace? What is the use of grace? There is a preparation. So grace not only teaches but it empowers you, you cannot live this life on your own, it is not possible. That is what grace is given for. ¹⁴ **who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself** that is the reason. We purify because of Him who is going to own us. The king of Person you are going to, will demand your preparation. You know the Person – 'Be holy as I AM holy.' Then you look into your holiness and you will see even the great prophets saying, 'Unclean! Unclean! Unclean!' So if He is that holy, Lord, to be in Your presence what do I need to be? What do I need to do? God says, 'First I have cleansed you and I have declared you righteous. Now allow Me to sanctify you.' That is the trenching of grace. The teaching of grace is only for those who are looking forward for the appearance of Jesus Christ. **His own special people, zealous for good works. ¹⁵ Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.**

2 Peter 3:10-11, 14

¹⁰ **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the Heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.**

¹⁴ **Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace,** (first be found by Him in peace) **without spot and blameless;**

First thing, see that you have peace with God and then peace with man. When He comes, you can't say, 'Lord, will You delay for 10 minutes, because I have a list here – all the people I need to forgive and ask for forgiveness from.' Do you remember the story about the man who got bitten by the mad dog? And he went to the doctor late. The doctor said, 'It is too late. You are going to have rabbits and you will die.' So he took his pen and paper and started writing furiously, the doctor asked, 'Are you writing you will?' He said, 'No, I am writing a list of all the people I want to bite before I die.' I am telling you, you need to read *1 Corinthians 15*, the coming of the Lord will be like the blinking of an eye, it will be a fraction of a second. You will not have time to make peace. No one will have time to make peace. So

he says, when He comes be sure you are found in peace. Live in peace with God every day, and as far as possible within your power live in peace with everyone.

Pursue peace with all men and godliness without which you will not see God. So when Jesus is coming you need to see Him, right? Otherwise you will not see God. So, ***in peace, without spot and blameless.*** Not perfect, but blameless.

God is showing us a list of things which His grace enables us to become.

James 5:7-9

⁷Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. So patience is a huge virtue in the Kingdom of God. Most of your troubles are not because of your troubles; it is because you are not patient. You don't want it now, you want it yesterday. In the Kingdom of God patience is a huge virtue. Be patient! Till when? James says, until the coming of the Lord. ***See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.*** ***⁸You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.*** So there is another virtue along with godliness and righteousness. You cannot say, 'Okay Lord, I think I am godly enough and righteous enough. Come!' No, be patient. You may think you are righteous enough, you may think you are godly enough, but there are a lot of others who are not. So be patient. How long will that one take to repent? God says, 'Wait, be patient. I waited this long for you to repent. Now that you have repented, why are you in a hurry that everyone should repent?'

I shared that old joke in Kerala, remember? There is this bus with limited stops, fast passengers bus. They don't stop anywhere. But if the bus is empty and if you show your hands he will slow down and say, 'Your ticket will be charged from the previous stop.' He will say, 'No problem,' and he will get in. Once he gets in and even though the bus is empty he doesn't want the bus to stop anywhere. Somebody else near the next stop needs to get in, he will say, 'Don't stop! This is a limited stop bus.' Hey man! It stopped for you, right? But once you get in, you say, 'Lord, Maranatha come Lord Jesus. Let everybody perish. I want to go home.' God says, be patient. There are so many who have to get into the boat. 'Lord, don't You know the exact number?' He says, 'I know, even in Noah's time, I knew only eight would get in but I waited 120 years for the rest.' Didn't You know? 'I Knew.' Then why did You wait for 120 years? 'Because that is who I AM; a God who is patient with you.' That is why we are saved. Otherwise we wouldn't be saved, when we were sinner and ungodly and enemies of God, God was patient with us. You want to reign with Christ Jesus when He comes there is a virtue for those saints; they need to be patient. So the Bible says – be patient. ***You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.***

⁹Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

Matthew 24:11-13

¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹²And because lawlessness will abound, where is this lawlessness? Inside. See lawlessness outside doesn't affect you. When lawlessness from outside gets inside that is when the problem begins. You become lawless. And when lawlessness starts abounding and it starts getting in, what happens is that love grows cold, ***the love of many will grow cold.*** That is the greatest danger of the last days. Men, women and children, especially teenagers shall be lovers of themselves. Not lovers of God. That is the problem.

Mirror, mirror on the wall..... you can frame you own question. Who is the most miserable of all? 'Me. Don't tell me that one is more miserable. My misery is worse than hers. So focus on me.' It can be anything. When 'me' comes, when self has come, the love of God goes away. We are living in a selfie age. Everything worthless is pictured and put upon your status. We are living in that age – people are lovers of themselves. Lawlessness will abound and what will happen? Love of many, for God and for the other, will grow cold. It is dangerous.

¹³But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

I told you about patience, we saw that in James. We also read about perseverance. Now he says, you have to endure. You have to endure the lawlessness and the hostility and still continue to keep loving and you will be saved.

So as we wind up, we go back to that only church to whom a promise is given. It was not even given to Smyrna. I don't know why it is not given to Smyrna. Maybe they were living in a different time zone and dispensation, I know don't, but they have to die.

Revelation 3:8

⁸"I know your works. Please understand this, it is a very terrifying thing if Christ comes to me and says, 'I know your works.' After that if what He says is good then there is relief and peace. It is like those days, remember, when the

teacher came into the class and she put all the answer scripts in her desk, your heart begins to beat faster. They put the answer sheets in order, from the lowest to the highest. She picks up the first paper – ‘fail’ you are relieved, ‘Phew! Mine is not in that.’ Then further and further down the scripts she goes down, on your right weeping is going on and on your left gnashing is going on, some have entered outer darkness and you are palpating. It is like that. So when He comes to all these churches and He says, ‘I know your works.’ On that day we will beg Him, ‘O Lord, please do not tell it to anyone else. Let it be a secret between You and me. I know my works, You know my works. I don’t want anybody to know.’ Think about it, He comes and says, ‘I know your works.’

But here, their works were good. What did He do? He kept a door open for them. ***See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.***

Open door concept is put in different contexts, but here in this context, this door is to escape the trials that are coming upon the whole earth. He says, ‘You church, there is a test, a trial that is coming upon the whole world. To you alone, Philadelphia, I am going to keep an open door. You can come through. But to come through you have to continue in the things you are doing now.’ What are the things?

First thing you need to realise is that you have little strength. That is the most difficult thing for modern man, to accept that he has very little strength. With all these Google knowledge everybody thinks they know everything, when they actually know nothing. Google has destroyed our lives. Every idiot has become a wise man. First thing to understand, see like I said yesterday, *Matthew 5:2 to Matthew 7:27* is the Sermon on the Mount. And He ends the Sermon on the Mount with the illustration of the wise man who built his house upon the rock. And He says, ‘The wise man who built his house upon the rock is the one who listens to these sayings of Mine and went and did it.’

That is why yesterday I said, very boldly, even if you do not read the rest of the Bible, if you study the Sermon on the Mount and ask the Holy Spirit to help you keep it, you will still be an overcomer. Because that is how you build your life. And do you know how it begins? ***Blessed are the poor in the spirit.*** Is there anybody here who is poor in the spirit? Are you a beggar in the spirit, who goes before God every day and begs God, ‘Lord, without Your grace I cannot live.’ Are you a beggar before God, crying out every day, ‘Lord, without You I cannot live.’ Is that how your day begins? Blessed are those. That is how He begins. He is turning the entire understanding of the Jewish community upside down. He says, this is how the Kingdom works. Ask yourself – is that how you began today?

Is that how you began? These are His sayings. ***Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed...*** none of those blessed over there fit in with what the world is telling us and what we want to happen in our lives. Is that who we are? These sayings. That is what God is talking about. ***Philadelphia, you had very little strength, you have kept My Word.*** The greatness is not that they kept His Word. The greatness is in what condition they kept His Word. You had very little strength but you refused to compromise. You were not a big church, you were not a prosperous church, you were not a strong church, you were a very little, small church, you had no strength, no money, no influence, nothing. But you refused to compromise. That is how you have to see it in context. You are not a mega church where millions were coming in every Sunday. You were not that kind of a church, you were ostracised church, you were a condemned church, you had very little strength, and the very synagogue of Satan was against you. But you kept My Word.

So you need to understand, everybody is not judged the same way. You see three men who kept the Word, but three of them will be judged differently. Each one will be judged depending on the level of strength he had. You had very little strength. What did you do? You have kept My Word. And secondly, you did not deny My Name. When you said, ‘Hallowed be Thy Name,’ you meant it. You refused to deny My Name. I gave you My Name. When I baptised you I gave you My Name and you kept My Name. You told them, ‘I can’t do that.’ Why can’t you do it? ‘Because I am a Christian. I can’t do that because I am a Christian.’ I have a Name that is not mine. It is given. So if it is given then it can be taken. I have to consider myself to be worthy of that Name. You kept My Word and You did not deny My Name.

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Yes I saw your tears, I heard your cry, ‘How long O Lord? How long, Lord?’ But you did not quit. You never quit. ‘How long? How long? How long?’ But you didn’t quit. You persevered, in the midst of hostility. You never quit. That is why I said the church in Philadelphia is very important. You kept My Word with very little strength, you didn’t deny My Name. you never quit. You hung in there, year after year after year. If you felt you wiped your wounds, you licked

your wounds and you got up and you started the next day. You never laid down there and said, 'I quit.' You never quit. You persevered.

I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Therefore I will keep you.

To this church the promise is given. So this church is clearly mentioned as to what they had. They had zeal for His Word, they had zeal for His Name. And what else? Go to the first verse.

Revelation 3:7

⁷“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,

Do you know what Philadelphia means? The church of brotherly love. You were a church where I saw Koinonia work. We heard about Koinonia last week. He says, 'You are a church with Koinonia. You were a church where brothers dwelt in unity. Therefore the anointing could flow from the head, to the collars and to the edge of the rope because Koinonia was found real in you. You are a church of brotherly love. Even when you kept My Word and even when you did not deny My Name, even when you were persevering for the sake of My name and My Word and My cause, among you I saw something; you lived as brothers and sisters.

2 Peter 1:5-8

⁵But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, that is where we begin - *by grace through faith we are saved. We receive the grace of God and we are saved by faith. Now add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,* ***⁶to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance,*** I see your perseverance, you have faith, you have endured, ***to perseverance godliness,*** ***⁷to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.*** Agape ***⁸For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

There is something called brotherly kindness, which is Koinonia. Agape is basically the sacrificial love. But churches and homes exits because of Philadelphia. You may be husband and wife but in the Lord you are brother and sister. There is a Philadelphia that exits in the home and in the church. You will never, ever forget that she is your sister. She is your wife but when you reach into eternity she is your sister forever. We are all brothers and sisters. ***Add to this brotherly kindness.*** Koinonia rests on the pillar of brotherly kindness. That is the church in Philadelphia.

Romans 12:10

¹⁰Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

How does brotherly love operate? In a home how does it operate? That is my brother, that is my sister. Nobody bothers when they take something that belongs to each other, unless there is jealousy, rivalry etc. you always prefer the other because that is your sister/brother. He asks – how do you operate in the church? Jealousy? Envy? Or brotherly love? That is Philadelphia.

1 Thessalonians 4:9

⁹But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

So brotherly love is taught by God. There is a teaching that is from God how brothers should dwell together, how a family should dwell together. It is a teaching. It is divinely taught. ***no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;*** what is that? Brotherly love. That is why jealousy, envy, hatred, bitterness, wrath, anger all that in the office is fine, but it cannot be in our homes and in our churches. You are short-circuiting yourself from the escape patch. There is a door kept for Philadelphia. They are walking in brotherly love.

Hebrews 13:1,3

¹Let brotherly love continue.

³Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

God says, you know what, do not forget. There is another side of the body which you do not see who are persecuted day and night. Be chained to them. You are chained to them, because you realise that they are your brothers. They are your sisters. It is an eternal fact. So let brotherly love continue. Ask these questions.

1 Peter 1:22

²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

1 Peter 2:17

¹⁷ Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Honour everybody, honour the king, and fear God, but when it comes to the church love the brotherhood. It is a different ball-game altogether.

1 Peter 3:8

⁸ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love asbrothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;

Love as brothers and love as sisters. Did you see why Philadelphia was given an open door? Jesus holds the keys to death and Hades, He holds the keys, He has the key of David, He has the key of death and Hades it is very clear in *Revelation 1:18* it is very clear. So if He opens that door, you can't die.

Revelations 1:18

¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

So when He opens a door and says you will not experience death or Hades, the grave. I keep it open for you, nobody can shut it. He says, the keys are with Me. I decide who stays in and who goes out. But I will tell you the criteria – your strength is irrelevant, but stick to My Word. Don't deny My Name, accept My command to persevere and above all let there be brotherly kindness and love among you. And He says, no one can shut that door and I will keep you from that trial that is coming upon the whole earth. This is life, not just doctrine. Doctrine is for life. You have doctrine and then you have Koinonia. Go back and read how the church in the book of Acts was. See how they lived. And you will realise that is how we are called to live.

Revelation 22:12-13,17

¹² "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"

Without the Spirit you cannot say it from the heart. You will say it from your head. For you to actually mean what you are saying you need to have surrendered to the Spirit. The Spirit-filled Bride and the Spirit say, 'Come'; they have one voice. There is no discord between the Spirit and the Church. The Spirit and the Bride, in one voice, says, "Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!"

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

So the question is – what do you say?

This morning we have heard, about the second coming of Jesus Christ. We do not know what is going to happen. When you look, you see the public coming to Jesus where the whole earth will see, like everybody can see the lightning. And there is when He will come down and reign for a thousand years where He is coming with the saints. But on the other side there seems to be a translation where one set of people are taken up, they are not coming down until a later time. And I believe there is taking up and in between is the wedding of the Lamb. While tribulation and the wrath is being poured over here. There will be many tribulations saints. It is like the day of Pentecost people got saved, 3000 got saved. That was not the end. After that salvation has been happening for days together. Right? So there are many raptures in the Bible.

There is a Man Child who is taken up to Heaven. We are not even sure who it is talking about. There are the two witnesses who will lie. Dead and all the world will rejoice and they will give gifts to each other and suddenly after three and a half days they will rise and they are taken up to Heaven. If you look at that there are many translations. There is an Enoch who went first and there is an Elijah who went and they still haven't died. They probably are the two witnesses. Everyone in his order and the first is Jesus. And I do believe that when you read in *Revelation 20* there is a final rising of the dead. Those are the tribulation saints, they also rose. And reigned with Him for a 1000 years blessed are those who are a part of the first resurrection. All the others who have nothing against their name, good; they have to wait a 1000 years. A 1000 years later you see the skies flying and the Heavens rolled up as a scroll and before Jesus all the dead are standing. And books are opened and the Bible says – if anyone's name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life he was cast into the lake of fire. That is the second resurrection. But in the first resurrection how many stages are there? We do not know. So we cannot be dogmatic and say, it is not, because all these things are there in the Bible. All we can do is see the standards God has put, because if we are the last generation and in every generation has to live like that, the Bible has told us how each generation should be. He spoke it through all His apostles.

And ultimately in the seven churches, starting with Ephesus and Laodecia He had nothing good to say, absolutely nothing good to say. Their judgment about themselves and His indictment about them are completely different. They said, 'We have need for nothing.' and He says, 'You are blind, you are wretched, you are poor and you are naked. Christ in one Church alone is standing outside and knocking, "Will you let Me in?" In the other church the Bride and the Spirit say, 'Come'. Here the Spirit is outside. And He is trying to get inside. Even to them in His kindness and in His mercy He promises them. But the fact of the matter is that He is out and they completely misjudged themselves. And He says, 'If you don't repent I will spew you out of My mouth.' What does it mean for Him to spew you out of His mouth? Every church is God's mouth piece on earth. He is saying, 'I will see that your words will not have any effect. You will not speak on My behalf. You may speak, you may gather crowds but you are not speaking on My behalf.' In Heaven it will not be accepted, why? Because you have lot of strength, you think you don't need anything. But you are reprobates.

So there is one church. And each one has to say, 'Lord, I want to be part of that Church. And I want to see life completely different today. Starting today, O Lord.'

As we stand on our feet, say, 'Lord, I am going to make my decisions in life in the light of Your second coming. If I make this decision today, how will it affect my preparation? If I take this decision how will it affect my preparation? If I make that choice how will it affect my preparation for Your second coming? Because what I am doing is that I am preparing for Your coming. Only when you see that as the main focus the rest will start making sense. If you don't see that it will not make sense, the centre has to hold. If you have seen the bullock carts and all there is a centre wheel and then to that wheel the other spokes. There is a centre that is holding the spokes.

What is the centre that is holding the Church? It is the hope of His coming. If you don't have the hope of His coming, this life will not make any sense. You will try to make you own sense and meaning out of this life. And you will write your own meanings. But when you believe you will say, 'I am here, but do you know what I am waiting here for? I am waiting for Him? And I am preparing for His coming.' Then everything will start making sense. This is the blessed hope, we have been birthed to a living hope. How? By the resurrection of Jesus Christ, He was raised from the dead. We are birthed to a blessed hope. So what is our hope? I am also going to be raised. Even if I die I will be raised. And if I am alive till He comes I am going to be raised. That is our hope. So everything factors that in. Don't change your target. Otherwise it will not make sense.

Go read *1 Corinthians 7* and all, the whole chapter on marriage and the questions and the answers, Apostle Paul has written about marriage is connected with His coming and the age in which you are living in. All those who are dreaming about getting married, go read *1 Corinthians 7*, it will comfort you. What does the Old Covenant say? Let the Bride get out of the bridal chamber and call a fast. Why? Because the Day of the Lord is near. If He is coming tomorrow all your agenda for today makes no sense at all. 'Oh I am getting married on May the 4th,' but 3rd He is coming. That is how you see and live in that light; occupy till He comes, but till He comes. Not be occupied, but occupy till He comes. You need to focus on His coming. You are holding onto everything He asked you to hold on, till He comes. So this morning, last day of the 4th month, as we begin the 5th month in few hours time, change your heart and your mind. Look unto Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of our faith who endured the Cross and despised the shame because of the joy that was set before Him. It is the same joy that is set before you and me; He is coming.

So we endure the Cross and despise the shame because we have another joy – He is coming back for me. What did He tell His disciples? *“Let your heart not be troubled. I am going to My Father’s house to prepare a place for you. If I am going I am coming back for you.”* That is our hope. That is around which everything is centred.

Closing prayer

This morning Father we just come to You, we just want to bless Your Son, Lord. Not only did He come and die for us on the Cross; He lived that life, died and rose again, but even now He is busy interceding for His Bride, preparing a place for His Bride. And we are so complacent, wandering around, making our own plans and agendas, not even giving a thought for Him who laid His life for us and still working for us. Father, I pray, today, that there would be a quickening in our inner man, O Spirit of God, that we would turn our hearts, and our minds and our eyes to Your Son. For He is the fairest of ten thousand, the Lilly of the valley, He is the Balm of Gilead, He is the Son of righteousness, He is the soon coming King. And when He says, ‘Behold I come quickly, help us O Lord, through Your Spirit, to say, ‘Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!’ Till then we will be occupied in everything You have asked us to occupy in. Help us to live our lives in the light of what we have heard, then we will have the helmet of hope firmly placed on our heads because our hearts are shod with the breastplate of faith and love. And let brotherly love continue in the Church and in our homes. Thank You Father, thank You Lord.

As we go into a new month I pray that the presence of the Lord will go with everyone. Keep each one , protect each one, empower each one, let each one walk in the grace and in love and in faith. For in Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us. Amen.