



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

OCTOBER 29, 2017

Living Faith Chapel, Calgary (Solution Center)

WORD FOR THE WEEK

WATCHFULNESS AND THE SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Bible Reading: *Matt. 25:1-18, 2 Tim 4:1-6, Rev. 3:1-6, 16:15 cf Matt. 24:3-44*

It is a delightful thing to be in the presence of the Lord once more! It is especially glorious because it is the last Sunday of the month of October 2017. The Lord has been gracious to us in many ways than one. That you are alive till this day; that you have shelter over your head; that you have a job that gives income, no matter how meagre you think it is, and the fact that every member of your household has seen 302 days of this year are enough reasons to appreciate the goodness of God like you have never done before. This is the reason the song writer says “count your blessings and name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” Please take a moment this morning to appreciate the King of kings for His goodness and mercies upon your life, your family and the church.

We give thanks to God for raising issues on the importance and needfulness of watchfulness at this crucial period of our Christian lives. He has repeatedly enlightened our understanding on what it means and involves, some reasons why it is necessary, some areas in our lives where we need to be watchful, and the dangers of falling spiritually asleep. ***Wouldn't you join me in prayers that these instructions will not be fruitless in my life nor stand against me at the appearing of Jesus Christ?*** Also ask our Father to give you grace to be consistently and productively watchful (*Mk 13:33, 35-36*). On the issue of watchfulness, note the following points:

- ✓ Jesus Christ, angel and apostles foretold our Lord's second coming. *Matt. 24:27; 26:64; Mk 13:26-27; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thess. 2:1; James 5:7-8, 2 Pet. 1:16, 1 Jn 2:28*. His second coming is inevitable!
- ✓ Jesus Christ warned us about the suddenness of His coming. (*Matt. 24:44*)
- ✓ His charge today is *Rev. 3:20*: “***Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.***” How long He spends knocking to get our attention depends on whether you are dead, sleeping or ignoring Him.

Examples of people that watched for his first coming are Simeon (*Lk. 2: 25-27*) and Anna, the prophetess (*Lk. 2:36-38*). In the same vein, Jesus Christ is calling for holy watchers today. There are 3 categories of watchmen:

- Those that watch over people, church and nations on behalf of God (*Isa. 62:6-7*);
- Those that watch for God's move/voice and/or against the operation of the darkness on behalf of the people, church and nations (*Ezek. 3:17, 33:7*); and
- Those that combine the both above.

Your prayer today should be: “*Father, qualify me for this assignment.*” You are bound to be preserved like Simeon and Anna.

Why is the call to watchfulness important and urgent?

- We are in the perilous times (*2 Tim. 3:1-8*)
- Jesus Christ is coming without a pre-notice. (*Rev.3:3; 16:15; Mk 13:33; 2 Pet. 3:10; 1 Thess 5:2,4; Lk. 12:39-40*)
- Blessed are the holy watchers for they shall not pray amiss (*Rev. 16:15; Lk. 12:37-38*)

What are you watching for in readiness for Jesus' coming?

- Watch against fulfilling negative prophecies;
- Watching against spiritual leakages;
- Watching against deception (*Matt 24:23-28*); and
- Watching against the rod of the wicked (*Ps. 125:3*)

The lessons we learn from Simeon and Anna the prophetess can be summarized into two:

- Personally serve God with fasting and prayers (*Lk. 2:37*)
- Please allow the Spirit of God to lead you (*Lk. 2:26-27*)

May the Lord give you the grace to be ever watchful of Christ's second coming as you meditate on these words.

NOTE: If you have been blessed by our Word for the Week or inspired in any way by them, please let us know by sending an email to The Pastor at pastor@rccglfc.org