

**WCCC 2024**

**Brother Timothy Kwok**

## **For a little while, He who is coming will come(2)**

Peace to you brothers and sisters. We thank the grace of God that once again we can gather before Him. I trust that brothers and sisters know the theme of the conference coming out of Hebrews 12:1, "to run with endurance the race set before us".

The burden that the brothers have given to me is "for a little while He who is coming will come, He will not tarry."

"For yet a little while,  
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.  
38 Now the just shall live by faith;  
But if anyone draws back,  
My soul has no pleasure in him."

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:37-39

looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,  
2 Peter 3:12

This morning by the grace of God I want to share with you this topic. I trust that this is clear to you: why Christ will come again, and what our responsibility is.

Brothers and sisters, we have believed in the Lord for many years and we know the reason for His coming, so this morning I don't have anything new to share. But my burden is that we will review, and be reminded by the Lord why the Lord will come again.

We know the day of His return is near. We are clear when we read the Word of the Lord.

Last night we shared the 5 aspects of our salvation. I trust that we all know of the birth, the death, the resurrection, the ascension and the coming again of the Lord.

About the coming again of the Lord, we see that there are 4 aspects of His coming. When we read Matthew 24, the Word of the Lord tells us that the day of birth pains is near. It is like a mother giving birth to a child. The pain comes in waves. I do not need to describe this in detail. We know that the prophecy of the Lord is being fulfilled a little at a time, and that it is mostly fulfilled. Our brother has said that the Lord can come any time.

Let me summarize these 4 aspects for the younger brothers and sisters:

1. In Matthew 24, it speaks of many kinds of calamities in this world: there are wars, earthquakes, plagues, and famines. When I was young I didn't think all of this would happen. That we would no longer have plagues, wars or famines. You don't need me to explain this. You need only look in the newspapers.
2. We know that the Lord said, "when the fig tree buds, the day is coming". We know that the Jewish people have returned and the nation of Israel has been restored. We know that the fig tree has budded.
3. The Lord said that the gospel will be spread and reach the ends of the earth, and the number of salvation will be full and the Lord will come. Brothers and sisters, even today we continue to share the gospel. But we can say that in principle the gospel has reached every corner of the earth through so many servants of God in different places.
4. The appearance of the false prophet and the antichrist. As it says in Revelations 13, the beast will rise from the earth. The beast will rise from the ocean. Brothers and sisters, today we are not here to explain Revelations. I don't want to mention the antichrist or the false prophet, but all these things are happening. These things are reminders that our Lord is coming again. We need to prepare to receive our Lord.

My dear brothers and sisters, as we consider this together, what is the reason for our Lord's return? We are not ignorant of the reason. We know that He is coming, and why He is coming. As I have said this morning, we shall have a review.

Let me give you a title: that the coming of the Lord is the story of love.

We can think of many aspects of His return, but the first I want to bring to you is this story of love. This is a very wonderful thing. You know that the Lord loves us and He wants us to be with Him. Do you know what is the most beautiful part of the garden of Eden? Of course none of us can be in the garden of Eden, but its best part is not the outward. It is not the beautiful flowers or trees. The most beautiful part of the garden of Eden is that God is with us.

My dear brothers and sisters, if you love someone, surely you desire to be with the one you love. Even if you are parted for a short time, you strive to be with the one you love. The young among us have many such experiences. That we have a desire for the one who love, that we may be with them forever.

Our Lord loves us. He so desires to be with us. All of the beauty of the garden of Eden is not outward. The most important part is that the Lord will forever be with us. When we read Revelations 21, on the throne there is a great loud voice, "Behold the tabernacle of God is among men! And the voice of God declares 'I will be with them forever.'"

My dear brothers and sisters, do you desire this? Do you desire to be with the Lord? Today you desire to be with the one you love. I can say this: our Lord desires to be with us.

In the gospel of John our Lord says so clearly. We can all recite this verse. That the Lord goes to prepare a place for us, and when it is ready He will come to receive us. So that where He is, we will be also. Brothers and sisters, we are not homeless. We have a home we can go back to.

When I was young, we were poor. We needed to move every year, because the landlord would raise the rent, and evict us because we are unable to afford it. If you have moved you would know how tiring that is. Every year we would gather up our things and move.

So I asked my father, "where is our home? Is it so tiresome to move every year." My father looked at me and said, "child, our home should be in heaven."

As I grew up I learned that home is not a building. I may live in this building this year and another the next. But home is the place where you are with your family. One day I realized this, that as long as my father is there, my mother is there and my younger brothers are there, it is home. It does not matter if it is crowded or hot.

Back in Hong Kong we had no air conditioning but I did not feel that it was a hard time. It was not that the outward condition improved, but we were with the ones we love.

We thank our Lord that He loves us. He has given us a home. He wants us to be with Him forever. This is a precious story of love. Therefore we say that the coming of the Lord is a story of love. He wants us to reenter the true Garden of Eden, as if the lost Eden is now rebuilt, and we can be with our dear Lord.

If we read the Word of the Lord, we see that the Lord will build His kingdom on His coming. There are too many Bible verses, I don't have to list them out one by one. I trust that you here all read the Bible.

Brothers and sisters, we thank the Lord. In Revelations it proclaims that the kingdom is the kingdom of my Lord and His Christ. I thought of my Lord coming in His majesty, with a staff in His hand to rule the nations. That He would win all the people to gather unto Him. This is true. The Lord will build His kingdom. It is a glorious and victorious work. He means to rule over all the living and unliving things in the universe.

But as I read the Word of God I have another burden. We Chinese have a concept when we think of kings. That the King is very authoritative, and everyone must listen to him. And if the King says he wants something, we have to give it to him. When we were young, we said if the King calls you to die, you have to die. Therefore everyone wanted to be the King. When I was young I dreamed to be the King. But in the Word of God to be a King, it does not only mean to rule over. More importantly the work of the King is to shepherd. One of the greatest work of the King is for Him to shepherd His own people.

We are so familiar with Psalm 23. It is a Psalm of David. Right at the beginning it says, "The Lord is my Shepherd." In other words, David is declaring here that he is not the King. Even on the outward people see David as the King, David is saying that he is not the king, and the Lord is the King.

It is the same in the world today. Why do we choose one candidate over another at the elections? We may have many reasons, but the most important one is that we choose the candidate that benefits us the most.

Why is our Lord the King? Of course He will magnify His authority and His rule over the nations, but the more important thing is that He is to be our supply, He is to shepherd us. What will He shepherd us with? When we read Revelations we see the picture: in the future glory, there is the river of life. There is the tree of life.

Our father Adam did not eat of the tree of life. But in the future glory, we thank the Lord that there is the tree of life, and we can eat of it. And there is the river of life, and every one of us is nourished. That is so satisfying. Don't you acknowledge this fact? That unless we obtain the life of Christ, we can never be satisfied.

Just like Jeremiah who found a cistern to quench his thirst, but only found a broken cistern. The Lord said to the Samaritan woman, "after drinking of this water you will thirst again."

My dear brothers and sisters, are these not the words we use to preach the gospel? Brothers and sisters, what gives your heart contentment? Is it the success of your work, or being praised for your service? All these may exist, but in our hearts, for those who belong to the Lord, only one thing satisfies our heart. That our spirits receive the nourishment of life. The fruit of the tree of life is the only thing that can satisfy.

On this earth we may have but a brief taste, but it is not to its fullness. Sometimes our soul is hurt and we feel that we are having a hard time. But miraculously your spirit receives the nourishment of life and is full of joy.

Forgive me for sharing my experience again. Many years ago I was studying and I was on fire and I wanted to preach the gospel. I told my classmates that I was going to preach the gospel. I went among my classmates and told them about Jesus. I told them that they needed to believe the Lord. None of them listened. I spoke for a long time and they asked me to go away. They cast me out and I had to leave.

I returned to my room, and my friend saw me coming back with my head bowed down. They didn't need to ask how it went. He said, "Timothy Kwok, the Christ you believe in doesn't want you anymore. You go to preach and nobody listens!"

You don't know how hurt that made me. I said, "Lord I go to preach the gospel for you, but nobody listens. Now they are all laughing at me." I was filled with hurt and almost in tears. But in my most troubled hour, when my heart was the most broken, the Lord spoke to the depths of my heart, "I am with you to the end of the age."

Brothers and sisters, suddenly I am content. Suddenly I am nourished. I now knew what it means to be filled in the spirit.

I trust that you have had similar experiences. Outwardly it is not easy at all. But as you come back to the Lord, even if the circumstances have not changed and the tears are still on your cheek, but thank the Lord that you receive the nourishment of life. Here a living water comes forth from the Lord that removes all our thirst.

Today we taste but a bit of it, but the Lord wants to give us the fullness of joy on that day. We will taste the fullness of the fruit of life. We can drink of the water of life, which is not like the

water of this earth that we drink and will thirst again. Not only that, Paul tells us that we are citizens of the heavenly kingdom. In Philippians 3:20, he says that we are citizens of the heavenly kingdom. All the abundance of the heavenly kingdom is for us to enjoy.

When we speak of the kingdom there are so many things we can say. But we know the reality that we are partakers of this glorious kingdom of heaven. Today we may be American, Chinese or Canadian, but we have a more honorable position that we hold to eternity. We are citizens of the heavenly kingdom. Our nation is not here on earth, but up in heaven. So when we walk out here, our heads need to be lifted up because we know we are citizens of the heavenly kingdom.

If you are an earthly citizen there are many requirements on you. I am not familiar with the rules in America, but I am from Canada and know the rules there. The rules keep changing. In the past you need to live for 3 years, and then now for 5 years.

To enter the kingdom of God there are some prerequisites. How can you become a citizen of the heavenly kingdom? How do you function in this kingdom? Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians about the judgment seat of Christ. That on that seat Christ sits to judge us.

We fear when we hear of judgment, because we think of punishment that comes with judgment. But here I see the positive side: that it is to consider how much of Christ is in us. What is the meaning and content of the judgment seat of Christ? We have this concept that the Lord told us in Matthew, where many come to the Lord saying they did this and that; and they cast out demons in His name and have done many things. But what did our Lord say? Our Lord said, "Who are you?"

That will hurt. You may think you have done many things, but the Lord does not know us. Why does the Lord say "I do not know you"? What the Lord is in fact saying is that in all the things that you have done, I do not see a little bit of Christ in you. You may have done many works, however, He cannot find Christ among all these things.

This continues to be my burden. Our work will be made manifest before the judgment seat of Christ. Our project is what we have done. Whether we have built with wood, straw and hay, or whether it is gold, silver and precious stones. We present our work project before the Lord, saying I have done all these. Some will say "I have established so many churches and preached so many gospels. So many have been saved because of me. I have been helpful to so many brothers and sisters. Lord, behold my work. Take pleasure, Lord!"

And the Lord says, "no". The Lord looks on whether you have done all this with Christ in you. Paul says that fire will manifest, it will test the measure of Christ in you. My dear brothers and sisters, this is my burden before the Lord: before the judgement seat of Christ, you may not bring all your projects before Him. The Lord will consider only one thing - the measure of Christ in your life. I speak of the judgement seat of Christ. There is only one measure, one standard at the judgement seat of Christ. It will measure how much Christ is in there.

So what is the prerequisite for us to become citizens of the kingdom of heaven? We thank the Lord that we who believe in the Lord can all enter into His kingdom. We are all qualified. Just like the robber on the cross. He had no chance to be baptized. He spoke only one phrase unto

the Lord, "when you come in your glory, remember me." It is that simple. The Lord replied to him, saying, "rest assured, today you will be with me in paradise."

Brothers and sisters, rest assured. You will be with Him in paradise. This is the precious promise. But that does not satisfy the heart of God. Because in our lives, we must live out the reality of the citizenship of the heavenly kingdom. This is to manifest the measure of Christ in you.

Consider this: if today you meet me in the kingdom of heaven and you find me filled with my self and my flesh, and we are all full of self and flesh, and in us there is no Christ. You may see a little bit of Christ. Can you imagine what the kingdom of heaven would be like?

We thank the Lord for all the things we go through on earth today. In terms of position, we are all citizens of the kingdom of heaven. We are all qualified to enter. But before the Lord we need to strive and grow, that we are all filled with Christ. That we are conformed to the image of the Son of God. Brothers and sisters, this is what the Lord is doing. We thank the Lord that when we come before the Lord this way, we discover that the Lord meets all our needs. Not outwardly, but the fruit of the tree of life. This is the water from the fountain of life that will sustain and supply all our needs.

If we have spoken this far, we know this fact. We are all citizens of the heavenly kingdom. We are all going to be like our Lord. But we discover the fact that we are not quite like Him. We thank the Lord that Paul tells us that there are three aspects to our salvation: the salvation of our spirit, the salvation of our soul, and what is precious, the salvation and redemption of our body. Brothers and sisters, we all desire this. I desire this more and more as I grow older because I realise how bad-looking I am. I was bad-looking when I was young, but now even more so.

But no worries, brothers and sisters, the Lord will give us a new body. We will put away the corruptible and put on the incorruptible. Why is this, brothers and sisters? Because even though we are made in the image of God, we are so far away from Him! In the future, in the kingdom of God, in the glory of God, we will not come before the Lord wearing this body.

We thank the Lord our spirit is saved and we have the life of the Son of God. Our souls are saved. We are conformed to the image of God's Son. But our salvation does not stop there. Our Lord will give us a glorious body.

My dear brothers and sisters, you may put on makeup today, but in the future you will not need it. For the Lord will give to us a glorious body. This is the redemption of our body. The beauty will far exceed what we understand. We cast off this, and we put on the glorious body. Then with joy and rejoicing we enter into His kingdom.

Imagine that scene brothers and sisters! We do not enter just like this. It is too shameful. Do you not agree? I am not content with myself. I ask my mother why I was not born with double eyelids. My father has big eyes, why are my eyes small? My mother said, "You are my son. You are ok." But I am not content.

Brothers and sisters, all this discontent will pass away. What did Paul say? That our outward body is being corrupted day by day. It is an inevitable fact. But the inner man grows newer day by day. Brothers and sisters, are you being renewed inwardly day by day? Like I said last night, do you feel that you are newer than yesterday? Or do you say with regret that you feel older than yesterday?

Man was created in the image of God. We can manifest God's beauty. That in the universe God can point at man and say "behold this man!". This is the manifestation of the glory of God. Of course we know that in all the universe only the last Adam can manifest the true man. That God can point at His Son and say "this man! This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased!"

When the Lord returns and the day of glory comes, I thank the Lord that all brothers and sisters will be changed. You will be made beautiful. Not according to the earthly standard, but by the standard of God. You will put on a glorious body. In the spirit you have the spirit of Christ and can fellowship with God. Your salvation is complete. You can love the Lord and know His will.

Brothers and sisters, at that time we can know that the Lord will point at us and say "This is my beloved. This is my bride." We all await for that glorious day that we become the bride of Christ. That we will be with the Lord we love. It is clear when we read the Word of the God that the Bridegroom longs to receive us. He desires to be with us. But today we are not yet prepared. I look around and we are not quite like Him. Why do we humans not live like humans? Brothers and sisters, forgive me for saying this, but sometimes our actions are not like that of a human being.

The Bridegroom desires to come and receive us. He wants us to be with Him in eternity. This is the story of love. Our Lord loves us like the Bridegroom loves His bride. He comes to receive us and be with us forever. My brothers and sisters, the coming of the Lord is glorious.

I mentioned that the coming of Christ is the story of love. Now I will tell you that the coming of Christ is a glorious thing.

Do you know, brothers and sisters? I trust that you know this - that all that God wants is glory. All the works of God is glory. I can say this: without the glory of God made manifest, God will not be satisfied. We can turn this around and say that as long as God is satisfied, then surely His glory will be made manifest. In all the works of God, they will reach the final end of glory.

Brothers and sisters, the return of our Lord is glorious. Why is this so? Because our God is satisfied. If Christ does not come again, God is not content. He is not satisfied. When will He be satisfied? When will God in heaven nod His head and find satisfaction? It is when Christ comes. Because when Christ comes again, the purpose of God is fulfilled. The purpose of God comes to its fullness. We thank the Lord, and long for the glorious day, not just for many bright lights and glory from heaven, but the glory that comes from the satisfied heart of God.

Christ comes again to bring the satisfaction of God to this earth. It is then we will see the glory of God fill this earth. We know this when we read the Word of God. In Isaiah 43, it states clearly, "The creation of man is for the glory of God." The calling of God is for His glory. Our lives on this earth is for His glory. So Paul writes, "whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it for the glory of God."

Today we all have fallen short of the glory of God. We do not manifest the full extent of the glory of God. Sometimes we may reveal a bit, but not to its full extent. Brothers and sisters, when our Lord comes again, when this glorious Christ comes, the heart of the Heavenly Father will be completely satisfied because all is fulfilled. And the glory is manifest.

We thank the Lord. In 1 John 3, it says "The Son of God is revealed to destroy all the works of the enemy." When the Son of God is made manifest, when the Lord comes again, all of us will see the Lord. On one hand, we will be made like Him. John says "what we behold in the future we do not yet know," but he knows one fact: that when the Lord comes again we will be like Him. For we will behold His true self. Then we will be changed, and our bodies will be redeemed. Not only that. When the Son of God is revealed, He will destroy all the works of Satan.

Forgive me for saying this, there is the short-term realization and the long-term realization. The short-term realization happens in our daily lives.

When can you cast away the work of the enemy? It is when the Son of God is revealed in your life, isn't it? In our lives we often have this experience. For the sake of the younger brothers and sisters, let me share this with you. We do not believe in the Lord Jesus through the following of rule after rule. The life of a Christian is so that the life of Jesus Christ will be manifest.

For those of you who are married, should you have a fight with your spouse one day, and just as you are about to start, you say, "Let me first go to pray, and I will fight with you after I pray." Will you do that? When I asked this, a young brother raised his hand and said, "I will do that!" And I asked him, "what happened after you prayed?" The brother replied, "After I prayed I could no longer have an argument. I was filled with indignation, but after prayer all that fire went away. I had many things I was going to say, and many retorts, but the moment I prayed, all that went away. The fire was quenched."

Brothers and sisters, today we know that the Son of God is revealed to destroy all the works of the evil one. So as Christians we can say that the Christian life is easy, or is hard. If you let the Son of God be revealed, it will take away all the work of the enemy. I do not have to say more of this. If you remember the many examples in your life, the many temptations and how you overcame the temptations. How you withstood the temptations.

I often say that temptation is like a lion and we are like a little bunny in front of him. We cannot stand before temptation. Don't think that you can boast in front of temptation. You will surely fall. What do you do? Hide in Christ! Let the Son of God be revealed and destroy all the works of the enemy. That is the short-term revelation.

But I believe that it speaks of a further realization. This is what John says, that in the future when Christ comes in His glory, there will be no more tears, no more pain. There will be no more illness, no more sorrow. All the bitterness brought on by the enemy will be no more.

Brothers and sisters all the trouble you go through today, all your experience of tears, all the things that tear your heart apart, we thank the Lord that on that day it will all be gone. Today the enemy pursues and persecutes us. He causes us to go through pain and sorrow, and causes us to be without hope. None of this can be removed by you studying this knowledge or that. All this

is the work of the enemy. How can you destroy the works of the enemy? Only when the Son of God is revealed. He will destroy all the works of the enemy.

Today we may say that we have had enough. Are you content with your life of sorrow on this earth? Sometimes you suffer so much you say you have had enough and you can't take it anymore. The Word of God says, "The Son of God is revealed to destroy all the works of the enemy". So today we long for the revealing of Son of God.

Oh, Son of God, may you appear soon! And when You appear, You will destroy all the works of the enemy. When the enemy is ultimately defeated, what do we see? We see that our God is satisfied. His heart is content. That is glory. When our glorious Lord tramples Satan on the earth under His feet, this King of Glory, our Lord of Glory, will manifest the glory of God. What would that be? It would be the satisfaction of the heart of God. This is the purpose of His coming again.

Not only that God receives the glory and that He destroys the work of the enemy, the coming of the Son of God will bring to us eternal joy. This is my feeling.

I just shared that the work of the enemy causes us pain and suffering. But brothers and sisters, when the Lord comes again, we will receive eternal joy. We will be happy forever.

I do not know if I am reading my Bible correctly. Brothers, if you discover that I am wrong, please let me know. When we read Revelations, it tells us that there is a good feast called the wedding feast of the Lamb. Do you like that feast? You may say "I don't know, I haven't had it yet".

When I was young I loved to go to wedding feasts. At home there wasn't much good to eat. I like fried rice. I love the final dish of the wedding feast, the fried rice. But all the dishes that come before fills me up. So I pass on all the good dishes that come before. My father saw this and was angry. He had given gifts for us to come to this banquet, but my son wasn't eating any of the good stuff. He urges me to eat this and that, but I tell him I am waiting for the fried rice.

When I was young I desired for the wedding banquet so that I could eat my fill. Unfortunately, there might only be one per year. And many times only my parents were invited. They would go to the banquet, and I would have my small plate of pickles at home.

Brothers and sisters, I am filled with joy as I read this. One day the Lord will sit over a feast in the universe. This is the wedding feast of the Lamb. In my heart a word comes forth: that all good things come to an end. The banquet is good, but there comes a point the feast must end. But I thank the Lord that this feast will never end. On this earth every good feast comes to an end. Everything good on this earth comes to an end. The feast on earth comes to an end and we all must go home. On this earth we cannot fully understand and appreciate what will happen in heaven. Even when we read Revelations we try to understand it with our earthly understanding and cannot grasp it fully.

But this feast of joy has no end. You will continue in this feast of joy. If in this feast you rejoice and you drink and you eat and enjoy the feeling of love. You enjoy the fellowship of the people you love. You eat and are filled. You drink and are having a great time. And you think "it would be

so good if this feast continues!" When I read the Word of the Lord, I don't find an ending to this feast. This is an eternal enjoyment. It is a joy and satisfaction that will never cease.

I remember a sister who loves to eat. She asked me, "Are there any good things to eat in heaven?" I said, "I don't know. I haven't seen the menu. But I know one thing: that the feeling you have today when you eat something enjoyable cannot compare with the eternal feast." In the wedding feast of the Lamb, your enjoyment will far exceed anything you enjoy on this earth. When you drink from the fountain of life, you will find it better than anything else. I cannot describe this, but by faith I tell you that whatever is the best drink you have today will be exceeded by what you find on that final day. In the wedding feast of the Lamb, it will far exceed all the joy you have at an earthly banquet. And what is more precious is that it will never end.

Truly we desire for this feast to begin soon. Many earthly feasts are short-lived. It makes us feel that time is too short. Dear brothers and sisters, we look for an eternal happiness. We thank the Lord. This are the reasons for His coming. He comes because He loves us. He comes that we can receive glory; that we can manifest Christ. He will come to destroy all the works of the enemy. When He comes the heart of the Father will be completely satisfied. When He comes He will bring to us eternal joy.

These are the reasons I can think for His coming again. I believe that you will find many others in the Word of the Lord. I am just sharing some of my burdens.

So how shall we respond today? Since the coming of the Lord is so great, what is the responsibility of the church today? How can we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ? We read 2 Peter 3, that we are "looking for and hastening the coming of the Lord." We should desire for His coming. To hunger and be anxious for it.

Brothers and sisters, do you have that desire? Just like our brother Raymond shared of the story of Sister Margaret Barber who longed every day for the coming of the Lord.

For someone who desires for the return of the Lord, he is someone who keeps watch. When we read Isaiah 21 about the end of Duma. The crying says "Watchman, what of the night?" There are some people keeping watch in the darkness of the night. They do not rest or sleep. People ask them, "watchman, what of night?" And they answer, "the morning is near".

Brothers and sisters, yes indeed the night is dark. But if you are someone keeping watch, you know that in the darkest night the morning star will appear. The Lord is coming. Every time the Bible tells us to watch or to be alert, it has to do with prayer. Who is one who keeps watch? He is someone who watches and prays.

As I was preparing this message I had this burden from the Lord. I felt that I had fallen so far short. What do you ask in your prayers every day? For your work to go smoothly? For your children to be obedient? Or more practically for you to make more money? For healing from illness? You can ask all these. But have you asked the Lord, "Lord may you come soon! Why do you still tarry? Why have you not yet come?"

We pray for many things. We ask for earthly things. Forgive me, we ask for the wealth of the world. We ask for a peaceful life. We may do a bit better and intercede a little for our brothers

and sisters. Or that the house of the Lord may have more useful vessels. But I say that this is not being watchful enough. What does it mean to be watchful? It is to ask when the Lord will work, and when the Lord will come.

When we read Isaiah 62:6, "Jerusalem I have set up watchmen on your city walls". In day and night they will not sleep. They will not rest, they will cry out to the Lord. They will not let God stop His hand from working. They want God to establish Jerusalem that she may be the praise of God. Jerusalem does not refer to the earthly Jerusalem, but the new heavenly Jerusalem, the manifestation of the glory of the Son of God. It is the coming glory of the Lord.

Our Lord has set up watchmen in His church. These people do not rest. They cry out to the Lord to work. Brothers and sisters, are we looking for and hastening that day? We need to live a life before the Lord. Perhaps our prayers need to head that direction. Of course there are many things we ask. We need to intercede for the brothers and sisters around us. But we must have this: we say to the Lord, "Lord may you come soon!"

Brothers and sisters this should be one of the items of our prayer. Otherwise we ask the Lord day and night for earthly things. I think that the Lord will not say this - this is my version - the Lord may say "you ask for this and that, why do not you ask for myself? You ask for these things, why do you not pray that I come soon? Do you not know that every problem is solved as soon as I come? Why do you not request that I come? Why do you not cry out 'Lord come soon?'"

In our corporate prayer, there are many items, but rarely do we hear this in our corporate prayer. When we sing hymns, we sing "this is the cry of the saints throughout the ages, this is the cry of Your church". Today the church is watching. The church needs to cry and call for the coming of the Lord.

My dear brothers and sisters, this is how we look for and hasten that day. How do we hasten His coming? I suppose we understand the Word of God. We need to grow up soon. I do not want to give too many descriptions. We know that if we do not grow up we are not worthy of our Lord. If the bride does not prepare herself and make herself ready the Groom cannot appear.

I love brother Lambert's example. He said, "at a wedding, when the music starts, we all stand and see the bride coming in. But the bride comes in and is only a little child. And we ask 'how can this be? How can this baby be married?' We see the groom, all handsome and full grown. But how can the bride be a baby?"

Today we are like a baby. We need to make haste to grow. If we grow we hasten the return of the Lord. As Paul's word writes, we can receive the sonship to manifest the reality of the Son. With the words of John, the bride has made herself ready. This beautiful bride, grown to maturity, dressed in a beautiful gown. The beautiful bride is there. And because of love, the groom will make haste to receive His bride.

The Word of the Lord says it well, that the Lord is not tarrying, but is forbearing towards us. The Lord is not delaying, but He waits for us. Just as you wait for your wife to put on her makeup. You go in and check and she is still not ready. What do you do? Are you anxious? Yes you are. But you have forbearance. This is my beloved. I will wait yet a while more.

My brothers and sisters, our Lord does not delay. How He desires. That He has given us the reality of the kingdom of heaven. How He desires for us to eat of the tree of life. How He longs for us to put off the corruptible and put on incorruptibility. How He desires for us to manifest the glory of God. How He desires that we receive eternal joy. He does not want to tarry. But He has forbearance. He waits for His beloved. Like the Song of Song says, "arise and come with me".

Are we able to rise? We cannot get up if we have not adorned ourselves. How do we hasten the coming of the Lord? Let us grow up in full maturity and stature of Christ. When the bride makes herself ready, we can welcome the coming of the Lord.

I have a few more points but I will stop here for today. But one last point I would like to share with you.

Brothers and sisters, how do we wait for the return of the Lord? We must be holy. Without being holy you cannot see the Lord. Within me is a strong burden: are we holy enough to meet with our Lord? In the light of God, are you pure? Brothers and sisters, it is not a matter of how much work you do today.

We know that in the history of the church there are some who have said that the Lord is coming tomorrow, and they quickly spend everything they can on their credit card and sell everything. They put on a white garment and wait for the Lord on the mountaintop. That is not right! You need to live right before the Lord, as you living now.

If I remember correctly, brother Moody said this, "If the Lord comes tomorrow. I must still do the things I do today. I must preach the Word I preach today. I will pray the prayers I pray today. If I need to visit someone, I will still do so." Brothers if you need to wash the dishes, wash the dishes. You live for the Lord today, and this is the most basic way for you to welcome the Lord. In other words, you live a life of co-walking with the Lord.

As I said last night, you walk with the Lord, and you are someone who waits and hastens His return.

I will always remember my brother Stephen Kaung's story. He often reminds me, saying "Enoch walked with the Lord 300 years. Where God went, Enoch walked with Him. For 300 years. Without knowing he walked right into heaven. God said to Enoch 'let us enter together', and Enoch went to be with the Lord."

Brothers and sisters, you do not know how to walk. Follow the Lord. Run the race set before you. The Lord holds our hands and we hold His. Together we run the race. This is our life. So that we can walk right into the glory He desires. This is our life. This is how we hasten the return of the Lord. We look and hasten the coming of the Day of God. This is the precious promise of God to the Church. This is the glorious hope that He has given.

Let us pray.

*Oh Lord, how limited are the words of man! May You speak deeper words, heavier words, words with more light. That none of us slumber, and we are all awake and watchful. May we be ones who*

*wait for your return. That we may be the first to see the appearing of the Morning Star. Hear our prayer. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen*