

## *Our Destiny*

### *Living Well While We Await His Return*

*John's response at the end of Revelation should characterize Christians' hearts in all ages: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20). True Christianity trains us "to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:12-13)...The more Christians are caught up in enjoying the good things of this life, and the more they neglect genuine Christian fellowship and their personal relationship with Christ, the less they will long for his return. On the other hand, many Christians who are experiencing suffering or persecution, or who are more elderly and infirm, and those whose daily walk with Christ is vital and deep, will have a more intense longing for his return. To some extent, then, the degree to which we actually long for Christ's return is a measure of the spiritual condition of our own lives at the moment. It also gives some measure of the degree to which we see the world as it really is, as God sees it, in bondage to sin and rebellion against God, and in the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19). - Grudem*

- I. While we are living in the last days, Christians will face increased challenges. To persevere and endure, we need to understand and focus on Christ and our heavenly rewards. Doing so will give us the strength to face the hardships of this life and allow us to maintain our integrity so that we can receive the everlasting rewards of heaven.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20  
 2 Timothy 4:7-8  
 1 Peter 5:2-4  
 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 9:24-27  
 James 1:12  
 Revelation 2:10; 7:9,14; 14:20; 19:6-8,17-18  
 Philippians 3:20  
 1 John 2:25  
 John 4:10; 6:35; 14:2-3  
 Matthew 8:11; 9:15; 24:36, 42-51; 25:1-13  
 2 Corinthians 11:2

- II. Our existence with Christ will be more fantastic than we can imagine. As children of God, we will share in Christ's inheritance. We will have great responsibility and specific tasks to perform. What we have learned in this life and how we have lived for Christ will directly affect what our tasks are. These tasks will not be work that leaves us unfulfilled, but be a joy and an honor to perform.

Romans 8:16-17

2 Timothy 2:11-12

Matthew 19:28-29

Exodus 18:27-22

Revelation 5:9-10; 20:4-6; 21:1-5,15-17

1 Peter 2:9

Isaiah 65:17

**Rv. 5:10** *"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*

- III. We are told to eagerly await Jesus' return. This means to watch for Him and persevere while we wait. Perseverance means that in this fallen world, and especially in these last days, we need to exemplify Christ in all our actions while we wait for Christ's return. We do this not to secure our salvation, but because of it. We cannot withdraw from this world. We need to be the light that this world desperately needs. In doing so, we will also draw others to Christ.

Romans 5:3-5; 8:18; 12:9-21; 13:1-2,5-7,11-14

Luke 11:33-36

Ephesians 5:8-10,15-17; 6:7-9,11-18

1 Peter 2:15-17

2 Peter 1:5-8

Hebrews 12:7-11

Philippians 2:14-15

Matthew 6:19-21

2 Timothy 2:11-13