

**Luke 21:20–36, pt2**  
*Taking Heed to Our Hearts*



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**Main idea:** Christ's warnings have proved true, and His counsel proved sound; now, He urges us to live as those who could be before His glorious presence at any moment.

<sup>20</sup>“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. <sup>21</sup>Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. <sup>22</sup>For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. <sup>23</sup>But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. <sup>24</sup>And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

<sup>25</sup>“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; <sup>26</sup>men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. <sup>31</sup>So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

<sup>32</sup>Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“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. <sup>35</sup>For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>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.”

**Introduction:** the point of Christ's fulfilled prophesying and heeded warnings to the apostles and the Judean Christians is that His Word proves true for us, so that the day we stand before His glory will be for us not a day of unimaginable terror but rather of unimaginable joy. So then, what is that Word to us? “Take heed to your hearts!”

### 1. Interpret the signs.

- a. The signs of the fall of Jerusalem came and were fulfilled. They were to take heed of certain signs, and also of their hearts (v34) in light of those signs.
- b. There are continual signs during the times of the Gentiles. But what remains is the setting off of a snare (v35).
- c. Since the day to which those signs point is a day of the lifting up of our heads, redemption, and being able to stand before the Son of Man...
  - i. We are to be encouraged by the continual display of the signs. It is the day when we will have a family, the day when we will have a home, the day when we can stand before the Son of Man.
  - ii. We are to take each recurrence of the signs as a reminder to take heed to ourselves and particularly of our hearts (v34a)

### 2. Beware the cares and pleasures of this life, v34b! (cf. 8:14–15). Christ can see your future, and He is helping us to live as if we can see it right in front of us.

- a. Christ banishes all anxiety.
- b. Christ outclasses all pleasures
- c. Application: practice seeing heaven now: family worship, corporate worship, living before the Lamb. Practice banishing anxiety by the power of Jesus and dwarfing worldliness by the pleasures of Jesus... so you can live now before the face of God... as someone who will soon stand before the face of Jesus. There is right now a Man on the throne of heaven. You will see Him and belong to Him, and Him to you, forever and ever.

### 3. “Watch and pray always”: a recipe for overcoming earthly-mindedness in order to live well in your appointed time on earth, v36 (cf. Phil 4:6–9)

- a. Jesus warns us not to tie our hearts down to earth by carousing (a life wasted in self-indulgence), by drunkenness, or even by anxieties.
- b. The only way to be prepared for something that will spring suddenly and inescapably is to always be prepared (“watching out at all times in praying so that you may be counted worthy to escape” the vengeance and instead stand in the day of the Son of Man (v36)).
- c. It's so easy to waste our lives in pleasure-seeking, or in distractions that numb us from reality, or in worrying over the things that face us every day. Where can we get ability to find our pleasure in the Lord and in serving Him? Or the ability to deal levelly with whatever comes in God's providence and persist in service and obedience? Or the ability to maintain joyfulness and peacefulness through it all? God's ability, in the place of our inability, is called grace (cf. 2Cor 12:9–10); and, the Lord Jesus tells us here that grace-dependent watchfulness operates by a continual looking to God for it in prayer. The point of these passages is to watch and pray unto a life of holiness, in the midst of a world that is at enmity with Christ. While it is folly to think that we can predict His return, it is a greater folly to be living in any different than we will wish we had been when He appears. The Lord Jesus is your Prophet, and He has prophesied and commanded these things in order to spare you.

**Conclusion:** Are you “counted worthy” in Christ? The Christ in Whom alone a sinner may be counted worthy is a Christ Who saves sinners not only by bringing them to faith through His Word, but by growing them in faith through that Word. In His teaching, He presents Hell to us as the undying worm of a guilty conscience and the unquenchable flame of God's poured out wrath upon that guilt (cf. 2Th 1:3–12). Even now, He urges you to take heed to yourselves so that as you live in this world, you would do so clinging to Him and not to the world, delighting in Him and not in the world.

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

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As we come to worship God in the hearing of his word preached and turned in our copies of that word back again to Luke chapter 21,

With chapter 21, the text is versus 20 through 36 and we'll be focusing, especially on the last half of that. But in order to get the context, we are going to read versus five through 36. But before doing any of that, since we can only read or hear preaching by God's grace, with any prophet to our souls, let us ask for that grace.

We thank you and praise you. Our Lord Jesus for your love for us that seeing what lies ahead of us. You speak to us by your word, about your spirit in such a way as to equip us. And prepare us that we might live rightly. Now we've asked for the help of your spirit that even as he exercised, all mighty power and carrying along the evangelist as he wrote the words that have been translated and that we have now to read and hear and reach that, you're same spirit with exercise.

The same Almighty power and giving light to our minds, that your perfect word which equips every one of your people. For every one of their good works that your Holy Spirit would come now and give to each according to your perfect purpose for us, make us to see and read and hear and receive what you proclaim on your servant.

Help going to him. Recall faithfulness to the text liberty, and his spirit. Most of all be glorified, we pray as in the preaching of your word, you declare your name to us

So we ask it all and Jesus name. Amen. This rise. As we hear the word of God read,

21, beginning in verse 5. These are God's words then as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations. He said these things which you see the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

So they asked him saying teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place? And he said, take heed that you not be deceived for many will come in my name, saying I am. He and the time has drawn near, therefore, do not go after them.

But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified for these. Things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately. Then. He said to them, nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places and famines and pestilences.

And there will be fearful sites and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for my namesake but it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.

Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer for. I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers relatives and friends. And they will put some of you to death, and you will be hated by all for my names sake.

But not a hair of your head shall be lost by your patients, possess your souls. But when you see Jerusalem, surrounded by armies, then know that it's desolation is near, then those who are in Judea, flee to the mountains. Let those who are in the midst of her to part, and let not those who are in the country.

Enter her for. These are the days of vengeance that all things which are written. May be fulfilled, but whoa, to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies. And those days for there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword and be led away, captive into old nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, and there will be signs in the sun, in the moon and in the stars.

And on the earth just stress of nations with perplexity, the C and the waves, roaring men's hearts, failing them from fear, and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth for the powers of the heavens. Will be shaken.

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads because your redemption draws near because your redemption draws near, then he spoke to them a parable. Look at the fig tree and all the trees when they are already budding.

You see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also when you see these things happening, no that the kingdom of God is near assertly, I say to you this generation and by moments pass away to all these things. Till all things, take place heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away.

But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts. Be weighed down with corrosion drunkenness and cares of this life. And that day, come on you unexpectedly, for it. Will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth 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.

This ends this reading of God's inspired and an errant word rejoice that he adds his blessing not only to the reading of it but to the preaching of it, please be seated.

As we began to hear this passage preached last, Lord's day by God's help, we saw that Christ's warnings, proved truth that he had in front of him apostles, who were very curious about the destruction of the temple, which they thought was going to be the end of the age, but there redeemer their king and their profit stood before them not as a prognosticator.

So much as the one who loves them and the one who could see what they would be facing. And the one who wished to prepare them for what they would face, namely standing before the kings and rulers, and being hated, by all and being betrayed, I loved ones, he wanted to prepare them to serve him and to have not only a good testimony, but patience under trial and to possess their souls.

Trust the Lord that not a hair of their head was being lost even as they were being killed. And we saw also that he was the same loving, prophet to the Christians who were in Judea and Jerusalem Jerusalem, and its surrounding countryside. Again, seeing what would face them at the time of the Roman siege and the fall of Jerusalem desiring that by words to them, they would indeed escape.

What came upon the Jews, not only by the hands of the Romans, but as Iraq a vengeance of God, for the Jerusalem, and the Jews, not knowing the time of their visitation, and the Christians. Again, by the Lord Jesus', loving merciful, word to them and his spirits, giving them to receive what he had told.

And to obey, what he had commanded they did escape and this as he says in verse 24, initiated the times of the Gentiles, the times of the Gentiles times, that include the things that he began to talk about verse 9 wars and commotions. Verse 10 nation, rising against nation kingdom against kingdom verse 11, earthquakes famines and pestilences.

And these things have been happening for the last 2,000 years or so. And when war does come, or when there is economic devastation, or when there are earthquakes or famines or pestilences, that's an old word and you overuse sometimes, misapplied word, but one with which you may be well familiar by now, pandemics verse 11, there have been these things.

Fearful sites and great signs from heaven. Verse 11. And when he comes back to talking about the times of the Gentiles in verse 25, he says this times of the Gentiles that are being fulfilled, the times of the nations, the gospel going forth, to the ends of the earth he returns to talking about these signs signs and the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars we are, we think ourselves very advanced and yet we have our own panickers.

Don't wait who see things and record things like solar flares and other stellar phenomena Hollywood makes movies ad nauseam about asteroids. That make come and destroy the world. We feel ourselves very vulnerable because our world is small and easily, destroyed and continually preserved by the grace of God. And we depend upon the survival of this planet upon, which he has placed us.

And if you do not know God as the one who upholds all things. And if you do not know that this is the God who has given himself for you and for your sin which deserves that wrath that you have the smallest sense of when you see great catastrophes.

If you do not know him if you know, only the catastrophes and you have the expectation of those things which are going to come, as a result of these signs that have been occurring for some 2000 years or so, then you will be in the position verse 26, men's hearts, failing them.

But if you belong to Jesus Christ, he just not want you to have your heart failing. You either. When there are wars or pandemics or oppressive tyrannical, governments men rising against men to take authority and dominate one another, which is a much more frightful thing than some things that have been called antics.

And your Lord does not want your heart to fail you. In light of any of them, he does not want you to receive them with, fearful expectation of what is going to happen. Because he has told you in advance that these signs announce that which the unbeliever should expect to come upon him that yes, everything that sustains him every providence by which the Lord has continued to spare to him, his life will ultimately conclude with the appearance of the one who has upheld all these things by the word of his power.

And on that day, he will appear either as an adventure in judgment upon you or as a redeemer. And so the question or the difference is between men's hearts failing them in verse 26 or when you see the son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory, you know who and what that is it is your redemption that comes in the cloud.

It is your redemption that comes with power. It is your dimension that comes with glory. It is your redemption that is at hand or as the new king James has. It draws near? Not will happen soon at the end of verse 28 but is arriving has arrived and so men's hearts fail them with fear and expectation of those things which are coming on the earth for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

So people try to live comforting themselves that everything will go on as it always has and will all be okay. And all these things that happen wars and plagues those all happen to other people. Those are things you read about in the history books. But we'll just keep collecting our checks even imaginary money created by the government.

And we'll keep entering ourselves and everything will always continue as it always has these indicators that are time is limited, and that destruction is coming, we're going to do whatever we can to ignore them because if we take them seriously, our hearts will fail us and yet they are indicators.

The destruction is coming. That this is a world that is cursed for the sake of the man who sinned against God and that had grown in bondage to corruption and decay. And that it's creator is full of wrath against sin That, which the unbeliever tries to ignore is absolutely certain and true, but that which the believer ought to embrace is absolutely certain and true.

And this makes all the difference in how we live our lives day to day. The point of Christ's fulfilled prophesying and heated warnings to the apostles and to the Judean Christians was that his prophesying about his coming to them was also true. So they needed to look forward to the day with expectation.

As a day of the lifting up of their heads as a day of their rejoicing as a day of their standing before the Son of Man. And that is true for us his word to us, that we will one day stand before. His glory is true and he comes to us, not as a prognosticator.

So much as a loving redeemer and king who has given himself for us and his ruling and overruling every thing now and will return, not only with vengeance for his enemies, but to bring the final fullness of all that blessing that he has earned for us by his righteousness.

And so he comes to us with a word for how to be prepared. How to live in light of that truth. We are in a sense like apostles, who cannot see our future standing before kings, but the Lord Jesus could see it or Judeans, who cannot see the future of this?

Pasian invading. And then titus laying siege and the horrors that would come, but Jesus could see us. See it. We cannot see the day when we will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ, whether we depart from this world and then our immediately in his presence or whether we are here on the day that he appears in the clouds, which we will be here, will either be returning with him or will be caught up in the air with him.

There is a rapture. It is the last day. Those who descend and those who are caught up and those who are together continue then descending with Jesus to judge that's the rapture. But he can see the day that you will stand before him. You don't know if that day for you is today, one whom I loved hearing thinks that his day is coming very soon but you and I just don't know Jesus sees that day and he speaks to us as a loving prophet getting us to live in light of the most important day.

So that we can live in the most important way everyone of the days that are written for us. And so he says take heed to yourselves bless your hearts, be weighed down verse 34 and he says verse 36 watch therefore and pray, always. So, we will see the teaching of this passage In these three sections.

First interpret, the signs interpret. The signs will be looking especially at versus 29 through 33 there. The desire of Jesus, that we would view his return as the arrival of summer. And not the way that maybe Tennesseans are certainly Mississippians. Might view the arrival of summer, but more like, Michigan's orgies as you may be, but interpreting the signs.

And then, in a second place, taking heed to ourselves, taking heed to ourselves, especially being very of the pleasures, and cares of this life and verse 34 and then in the last place watching and praying, always watching and praying. Always, so, in the first place, we are to interpret the signs because there will not be new signs when Jesus appears in the sky.

That's the redemption that has arrived. That is the kingdom that has arrived. The word can mean drawing near in terms of at hand or get it or getting close or drawn near in terms of getting close. But it also can and doesn't this passage mean at hand? It is your redemption that is at hand.

When the son of man appears, how do we know which one of those? It is because of the snare for it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Now, those of you who like to trap things, One of the important things about your trap, one of the important things about your snare is that it grabs instantaneously if it creeks slowly when the animal steps on it and the animal can hear and feel that it's coming, it doesn't work, does it, you know, it didn't go out there and find your prize platypus.

You would find an empty trap, the Lord says that his return comes as a snare upon all who are on the earth. Other ways that he describes it is as a thief in the night or in the twinkling of an eye. These are all words that mean unpredictable and inescapable.

He wants you to live in a way that is always prepared. He wants you to always live and light of the fact that there is a risen redeemer sitting on the throne of heaven before whom you will stand in the last day. Now there are signs that has returned is coming, but these signs is we have said and versus 9 through 11.

And again in verse 25 are signs that have been throughout the ages pointing to that which will come at the end of the ages and they are signs that you can either interpret with or respond to you with failing heart and fearful expectation, or with eager expectation. So, that's the transition from verse 28, to verse 29.

Now when these things begin to happen, look up lift up your heads which things the Son of Man coming in a cloud, the power and the power and great glory, because your redemption draws near. And so you cannot see an advance has coming, but you can see an advance kingdom rising against kingdom wars, earthquakes, the sea and waves roaring the end of verse 25.

You see that as things they say Jesus is returning, what does Jesus returning mean what returns with Jesus. What comes with Jesus? When Jesus comes your redemption comes. And so you look forward to the coming of Jesus, the way you look forward to not just fig trees, but all the trees butting, you know, even all of the contrarian people who say that they love winter and the Lord gives us winter and it's nice to have a chill on your face and to come in and warm up and have hot cocoa or the people who say that they love autumn.

And there are wonderful things about autumn especially in Tennessee. Well, you don't get autumn in Tennessee but especially in like North Tennessee or higher elevations, where leaves change and heat finally breaks. And you know the hope of the insects dying rises again in your heart and you know all of those things are wonderful.

And people all say that they have various favorite seasons, but you would have to be a mentally corrupted human being, not to love budding, blossoming trees, the end of the spring and announcing in full bloom. At least in the way in the assignment of the seasons that Jesus gives it here the arrival of summer.

And what he's saying is that he wants you to be able to respond to wars and kingdoms raging and people's plotting in vain, right. He wants you to be able to respond to all the first half of Psalm 2 signs with last half of Psalm 2 joy. He wants you to kiss the sun now and submit to him now, and not to crumble under the oppression of tyranny, in your land, in your day.

But to know that there is a separate in the hand of Messiah Jesus, the only begotten son, who was also begotten of a woman so that all of the kingdoms of the earth would belong to him. And he would take his iron sector and shatter them all to smithereens.

Blessed are all who trust in him. So what Jesus is doing with wars and rumors of wars and kingdom, against kingdom distress of nations, and earthquakes and, and stellar phenomenon, and tsunamis and hurricanes. He's saying, I want you to see an all of them that the Lord Jesus reigns and that the Lord, Jesus is returning.

And that every one of those things points forward to redemption even more than it points backwards to the fall. Don't you get tired? Hearing the preachers get up and and say all of these things just so how fallen and miserable the work? It is full in. It is miserable but it also has an expiration date and on the date of its expiration, it is the redeemer who appears in the sky and it is the final fullness of all that he has earned and it comes with unimaginable infinite blessing for you, not only in a new heavens but also in a new earth in which righteousness, dwells and the knowledge of God covers the earth as the waters, cover the sea.

And so even when your own government, grabs more and more power and everyone with a lick of sense knows that government never gives it back. Unless the people take it, this isn't to people who are going to take it unless the Lord changes things. You still look at it, and you say about to be shattered, by the iron rot, by the one who's returned will be, like the arrival of all of those trees full of bloom, beautiful sight.

And the delicious sense. So, interpret the signs since the day to which those signs point is a day of the lifting up of our heads, a day of our redemption, a day of the kingdom a day of standing before the sun of man, we are to be encouraged by the continual display of the signs.

How this would sound to those apostles who are told your family will abandon you. Some of you have experienced that for the faith, maybe not utterly outright the way some and the Muslim world do. But the one thing you can't be with your extended family is a zealous joyous Christian, who speaks of the things of Christ?

Well, those apostles were told everyone's going to abandon you but on the day of the return of the Lord Jesus, you will have that family. You will lose your home. Perhaps like the Judaians dead and many for the sake of Christ have lost their homes. And is not that something that many of you have seen as, as they develop more and more, their, their plans for who will be able to carry out transactions and, and things.

And it's happening in parallel with all of the despising of the truth of God about male and female and marriage and any kind of righteousness or sin. You see a little bit using, just a little common sense and wisdom. Those things come together and you think what if I can't buy herself?

What if I lose my home? Well, the Lord Jesus told the Jedians, You are going to lose everything. You're gonna see vespasian invade and you are going to run and yet you lose nothing. You don't lose a hair from your head, why? Because the day of the return of Christ is the day of the ushering in of an everlasting kingdom, and a new heavens and a new earth that all belongs to you because you are a joint air with Jesus Christ.

He's not inheriting this world. He's not inheriting your homestead. He's not inheriting. You're investment accounts, you are inheriting his inheritance, he's not inheriting yours and his as infinitely better. So, yes, make good use of all that he entrusts to you, on the day that he takes it away, but interpret the signs and look forward to him.

And his inheritance him and your redemption him and his vengeance which is also for you and on your behalf. With all the joy of looking forward with infinitely more joy. But with joy to which looking forward to the blossoms and the springtime in the summer is just an analogy, be encouraged.

And the second place, take heed to yourself and interpret the signs, but in response don't just be encouraged about the day that is coming but live now in light of the day, but take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts, be way down with carousing, okay? Living for fun, basically, wasting your life, some of your translations may say dissipation, which if you've ever had a soda and aren't I know children, you like weird things.

So some of you may like flat pop, don't resist the illustration because you don't know how to enjoy a good fizzy pop. Okay. Do you say pop? I don't even know but dissipation is when the the little carbon dioxide bubbles have dissipated and the pop is flat and the set is wasted and it's good for nothing but pouring down down the drain and you know giving diabetes to whatever eats what comes out on the other end.

And How many of us are living lives that are flat pop? Wasting them on living for fun. Entertainments, that barely move the needle. When you're in the middle of it you get halfway into the show or the ball game or whatever it is and you're asking yourself, you know, should I finish?

It's not even enjoyable or your team's down by million or your team's up by a million or what it's all rubbish. Worthless dissipation even worse. When you live for pleasure, you fall into sin because your pleasure isn't in the Lord himself. And so keeping his law matters little to you and his smile upon you matters little to you.

The one for whom you were created. The one who will be your ultimate delight in that new heavens and that new earth in which even physically. The the pleasures will outclass anything. You could possibly have in this life and yet he himself will be the heavenlyness of the new heavens and the new earth.

But when we aren't enjoying him, we are willing to sin. So dissipation ends in drunkenness, and if you're living for this world, then what happens in this world can? You can't it because he can lose the money all at once. And there are such things as government overthrow, which doesn't always happen by military force.

Sometimes that happens in elections and put fear quotes on those elections. He can lose everything in this world, and if you're hope is in this world, and if you're pleasure is in this world, you will be weighed down. Not only by carousing or dissipation and drunkenness sin against God and abusing the the body that he gave, you not having self-control by the scripture, but being controlled by your sin, when you will also be weighed down by the cares of this life, cares of this life, but the Lord is given you his word intentionally to fight against those things.

If you turn back, if you have your Bible open, you turn back to chapter 8, perhaps you remember the parable of the soils, remember the the seed that is the word of God, and the different soils. And he says, in verse 14, now, the ones that fell among thorns are those who?

When they have heard they go out and are choked with cares, richest and pleasures of life and bring no fruit to maturity. Do you see the Lord Jesus saying the same thing in our passage about hearts being way down with dissipation wasted life on fun, drunkenness corrupted life on sin and the cares of this life as he does and that third soil and the parable of the soils, you see what he's saying here?

He says he wants you to be a fruitful Christian who and depending on whether we're in chapter 8 or here in chapter 21 is not way down with pleasures or anxieties. Or in chapter 8 is doesn't don't have your your spiritual life and your fruitfulness choked out by pleasures or anxieties.

Now each one of you will be different and and you may be susceptible to both. We all are to some extent but each of you is susceptible to one of these, more than the other, Perhaps you're the sort of person who is often repeatedly, anxious. And you're either way, down by that anxiety or it's choking out the word.

Well, what's the solution? The solution is by the spirits blessing on the word and it taking root in your heart, it would be able to bear fruit because the plant of the word will be strong enough. And either the anxieties of the pleasures will be weak by comparison so which carries more weight with you your redeemer and the redemption that comes with him to whichever catastrophe in this life points to that redemption is that what's going to is?

That's what's going to carry the weight in your heart or enjoyment of things in this life, things like your family, not betraying, and hating you things like you being able to keep your home and the things that are in it, which carries more weight to take heed to yourselves.

Lest your hearts. Be way down with corralousing and drunkenness. And cares of this life and that day, come on you unexpectedly children. If you were at, I now, whatever your parents say about candy, okay? Whatever your parents say about candy, you follow. But if you are at a party and there was candy there and for some reason you had lost sight of your mom and dad and you are feeling your hands and arms with the candy because it's candy.

And you came to a horrible realization that the people who put on the party are getting ready to kidnap to take away so that they never see their mom and dad. Again, this actually happens to lots of kids in our culture and that they use the candy as a distraction, and then your mom or dad arrived.

What would you do with the candy having realized that danger of destruction, throw it all down because you can't reach up for mom and dad with your arms, slow down with candy. Can you would you believe that adults our foolish enough to try and load themselves up with all the candy?

Even when the redeemer has said that receiving the good from him as good from him and knowing that we're going to have to leave it behind anyway, saying employee the goods that you have in this life for him and be willing to lose it all in a minute, because Christ himself is your redemption.

And if Christ himself is your redemption, that banishes all anxiety, they can kill the body, but they cannot take the soul and they cannot keep your body from rising again, and they cannot keep Jesus from returning, and they cannot keep you from inheriting his inheritance. And he is greater than all your pleasures.

And so, one of the applications here is to practice seeing heaven. Now, you and I we live in this world and we need to delight in the Lord in this world. And we need to serve the Lord in this world. But one of the things that he gives us to facilitate that is worshiped worship and on our we call it in our closets, whatever that special place is where you have your personal worship, and our family worship, and our, especially our public worship.

And the Lord's day, getting these glimpses of heaven where you, gather with those who are going to be your family, not only in this world. But in the next and what a joy, if you live in a household with other Christians, so that the most important thing you do in your house, every day is that worship time seeing him by faith, hearing him in his word singing, his praise and joying him him himself so that he will be your pleasure even when you rise from your knees and go out to whatever you do and he will be your purpose.

When you do your school or you do your chores and you serve your neighbor.

Practice banishing, your anxiety by the power of Jesus and dwarfing worldly pleasure by the pleasures of Jesus worship. Enables us to live. Now before the face of God, it is practice at enjoying him. There is right now, a man on the throne of heaven and what do you see before that thrown, when you get the apocalyptic?

And that just means revealing things showing things glimpses into glory. You see a place and a people that are obsessed with him, who sits on the throne and the lamb and one chapter. They prays the living God with praises that are for him alone and another chapter, they prays the lamb with the praises that are for the living God alone, because the lamb is the living God who added humanity.

So that it could be slain. The even appears in glory is a land that was slain and heaven is a Christ. Obsessed God, obsessed place. And people there's right now a man on the throne of heaven. We gather to him and we gather through him in these worship times.

And one day you will see him face to face. Worship is practice practice as at taking heed to yourself. Lest your hearts me way down and that's why in the last place he says watch and pray always and doesn't mean never do anything but watching and praying but it means never give up or slack in your watching and praying watch and pray, always that you may be counted worthy and will come back to to that phrase.

I know the critical text and has something else there but it's an intentional phrase that the Holy Spirit ties to speaking about the same thing in second Thessalonians chapter 1 watch 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. It's wonderful that he uses the language of being counted worthy because we're not worthy. Only Jesus is worthy and if he who arrives is not your worthiness on that day, then you will not escape and all of the wars and catastrophes and plagues and tyrannies, and earthquakes and hurricanes.

And it will all have rightly predicted your destruction, but Jesus offers himself to you now to be your worthiness. This is one of the things that happens when you come to worship, isn't it? Is this one of the things that happens when you come to pray?

Because you may sometimes just say as a matter of habit unthinkingly in Jesus name. Amen. But by God's grace, by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. I hope that for you, those times are rare and that when they occur you you despise them and ask God to deliver you from them.

Because every time we come to him we must remember we must come only through Jesus only through his worthiness only through his blood. We come having sin so many times since the last time we thought of him. Since the last time we addressed him, we come knowing that if we were to receive according to how well we mean it now we would just receive anger and punishment from God but we don't come in that way.

Do we? We come through Jesus, we come through a full sacrifice we come through the shed blood of Christ, who is our passovers will be hearing. Next Lord, stay Lord willing, we come through, it is finished, we come through there is their four now. No condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, we come through the propitiation of Jesus Christ.

No wrath left for us at all only favor in him. So we come and confessing our sins and clinging to him saying he alone is our hope for praying

He alone is your hope for praying. So when you come to God through Jesus Christ, you come clinging by faith to him to be your righteousness, to him, to be your worthiness and he in whom you are counted worthy to pray. So only whether can happen. God counts. You worthy for Jesus' sake to pray will count.

You worthy for Jesus' sake in that last day and you will be able to stand in the day of the Son of Man. These we've been hearing and the evening sermons and we don't have time. Now although the temptation still there to recap last, we can preview this week rejoice, in the Lord.

Always to come to pray through. Jesus rejoice through Jesus. We realize that he's all your worthiness, he's the only righteousness. The only worthiness that you have Jesus warns us not to tie our hearts down to earth, but to be prepared. How do you prepare by clinging to him by clinging to him and so easy to waste our lives and pleasure seeking or distractions that know us from reality and worrying.

Over the things that face us every day. Where can we get? Instead ability to take heed to ourselves, ability to watch and pray. Well, his grace is sufficient for that, doesn't it? The Lord Jesus tells you to watch but he gives you the watching. He tells you to pray and you don't have the praying.

He'll give you that too. The point of these passages is to watch and pray unto a life of holiness clinging to Jesus Christ, because Christ who is your life will appear and so you have in mind the purposes and pleasures of heaven as you serve him on earth because your life is hidden with Christ in God.

So I ask you, are you one who is being counted worthy in Jesus Christ?

Do you know when you come to God to pray that you have no right to be there that apart, from Jesus, all that. You have to expect from him is a just righteous holy punishment of having failed to glorify him and give thanks to him. Do you know that about yourself, more importantly?

Do you know about Jesus that he has every right for you to be there that he gave himself and shed his blood to put a way your sin? And that looking forward to the blood of Jesus. They splash the blood of animals on a tent and on a building, and God was pleased to make his favor known in those places.

But that tabernacle and that temple have nothing on you because you don't have the blood of bulls or goats. You have the blood of Jesus himself.

Where you counted worthy in Christ. The apostle and second Thessalonians. Chapter 1 is writing to believers who are also suffering persecution, but they are counted worthy in Christ and he uses the the same language because our Lord Jesus uses in our passage this morning, says we are bound to thank God always for you brethren as it is fitting because your faith grows exceedingly in the love of every.

One of you all about bounds toward each other. So that we are ourselves both to view among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God. So, all these things are happening, not only out in the world but to Christians, but it's a reminder that all that Jesus said about the judgment is true, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God.

That you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer, see clinging to Jesus. Jesus is their worthiness and because they're clinging to him, these things are coming upon them since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you.

And to give you, who are troubled rest with us. When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels. And so, he refers to that day, when the son of man appears in the cloud and it's a day either of redemption or terror isn't it? We won't be a boring day for anyone.

What kind of day will it be for you day of redemption? Pray by God's grace in flaming fire taking vengeance. On those who do not know God, those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord. Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting, destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

When he comes in that day to be glorified and his saints and to be admired among all those who believe because our testimony among you is believed. Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling and fulfill the good pleasure of his goodness and the work of faith with power that the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ may be glorified in you and you in Him according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

So who are those? Who are counted worthy, those who he has made to love his glory. And to admire him when he says in order to foster that love for his glory and that admiring of him, he's given you worship watching and praying. So, interpret the signs. Be encouraged and look forward to the day.

Take heed to yourselves count Jesus as your confidence so that the world can't give you anxiety and Jesus as your pleasure, which out classes, all the pleasures of the world as much as a mom or dad out classes candy, and watch and pray, worship him come to God through him.

No, him alone, as how you are counted, worthy and admire him, and thus have your heart trained to rest in Jesus. And to rejoice in Jesus. So, as the government takes away your liberties,

Worship the Lord Jesus. So, you will not be way down with carousing or drunkenness or anxiety. It's brand.



Lord. We have preached and heard as those who are weak, but looking to you, that we might do it in your strength, we pray. Now for the ongoing ministry of your Holy Spirit, that by his almighty power, he would take this passage, he would write its truth on our hearts and cause us to bear its fruit in our lives that we might be, joyous and diligent and counting you where the of losing everything and that in Jesus Christ.

And his righteousness and his sacrifice, we might be counted worthy in the day of his appearing. We pray that he would get all admiration and glory for what he has done for us and even for what he is doing in us and we'll have completed in his day. So we ask in his name, man.