

## Sunday School Lesson for the month of June 2012

### A Second-Coming Church

*(1 Thessalonians 1:10)*

**(Sunday, June 3, 2012)**

Verse 10 says the Thessalonians had turned from idols to serve God “*and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, who delivered us from the wrath to come.*” Jesus promised that He would come back and gather the faithful to be with Him forever (John 13:1-3). Consequently, the ideal church awaits His return.

The believer had turned to God because of the promise of Christ’s return. It was God’s son who was returning to earth, the person who had died for them so that they might be acceptable to God and live with Him forever. They believed with all their hearts that they were to live with God forever. This was the reason they were waiting for the return of Christ. The word “*wait*” is in the present tense. This means that their hope for the return of Christ was alive. They expected Christ to return at any moment and eagerly looked for Him to part the skies. This expectation was a daily expectation.

**(Sunday, June 10, 2012)**

**Did you know that many churches aren’t waiting for Christ’s return?**

Peter said in 2 Peter 3:3-4, “*There shall come in the last days scoffers, whaling after their own lusts and saying, where is the promise of him coming?*” Some people today don’t ever talk about the return of Christ. In fact, I heard a preacher say, “**I never talk about the return of Christ – there’s too much confusion on that issue.**” Maybe it’s fortunate for the people in his church that He doesn’t. There’s no sense in adding more confusion to what already exists. But that doesn’t excuse him from speaking the truth. Every church that is truly committed to being what God wants it to be must be aware that Jesus is coming!

Christians should be anxiously waiting for Christ’s return! Anticipation of the future motivates us to live godly lives for His service in the present. The last recorded words of Jesus in Rev. 22:12, says “*Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*”

**(Sunday, June 17, 2012)**

Knowing that Christ is coming gives me a sense of urgency about sharing the good news with others. After His resurrection, Jesus said, “*ye shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . .*” When he had ascended into heaven, two angels appeared and said, “*This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*” Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:11, “*Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.*” When I realize the impending judgment of God, I can’t help but persuade men to be “reconciled” to God.

A Church that doesn’t believe in the return of Jesus Christ has no sense of rewards or urgency to deliver the ungodly from judgment. The Lord wants us to remember His return. This is one of the vital teachings of the Bible – The return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth!

He is coming back to rapture the Saints – to rapture His church! It has been this biblical doctrine that has inspired multitudes to repent of their sins – to draw closer to the Lord and remain faithful.

- Regardless of what false prophets may prophesy, unbelievers may believe, Jesus Christ is coming again!
- Go ahead and ignore the signs if you want – but He is coming again!
- Although some may laugh and call it foolish, He’s still coming again!
- Some may detest it being preached – He’s still coming again!
- Some may try to defy its possibilities – He’s still coming again!
- For I want to tell you that the return of the Lord is far more than just a suggestion – it is a sure thing!
- It is far more than a probability – it is a Divine Promise!
- It is far more than an exciting announcement – It is an absolute certainty.
- It is more than a good idea – it is a commitment from God!

Just as sure as He was born of a virgin, turned water into wine, fed the five thousand, stilled the raging waters, cleansed the unclean lepers – He’s coming again!

**(Sunday, June 24, 2012)**

**Well, the last thing I want to tell you is – He’s coming soon!!!!** When I look at this present world filled with sin and shame and Satanic activity, I realize that His coming can not be too soon. This world is full of wickedness, crime and immorality, corruption, perversion and rebellion. I believe He’s coming soon.

Look how we are under extreme pressure - we are fighting against Satan. We are facing adverse circumstances - encountering difficult problems, suffering great pain and affliction, it can’t be too long before Jesus shall return. Despite of what politicians and diplomats are saying – Despite of what the psychologists are saying – He’s coming back soon!

World-wide corruption, area-wide epidemics, high rate of crime, dog-eat-dog society, problems and pressures, frustrating rate race – He’ll be here soon I tell you!!

Finally, since He’s coming back, we ought to be ready when He comes. To be ready you must be cleaned up; straightened up; prayed up; filled up; fired up; looking up and be ready to go up!!!!