

Evotional

Date: 29th July 2007 (am).

Speaker: Neil Durling.

Message title: "Living in light of Jesus' return."



Bible passage: 1 Thessalonians 5:

The passage is too long for this page.

The message in brief:

The Thessalonian Christians were becoming consumed with wanting to know when Jesus would return. This was because some of them had died and they didn't think this would happen before the Second Coming. Paul says that we won't know when it is going to happen but it will be like a thief in the night (1-2) and a woman caught by painful birth pains (3). We could see it as a nuclear flash possibly? It would be foolish, therefore, to try and work out when the thief might break in, or the birth pains will come, or the nuclear flash will appear.

However, Paul says we can be prepared. How? By living in the light and by day, not in darkness and at night (4-5). We must be alert, sober and appropriately dressed not asleep or in drunkenness (6-8). The Message interprets it this way: "Let's keep our eyes open and be smart."

Paul fleshes out what this looks like (11-22). Please note that all these activities are sandwiched between two reminders:

- A: We receive salvation because Jesus died for us (9-10).
- B: It is God who sanctifies us; makes us holy (23-24).

All our action comes from the source of knowing that we are saved and being remade by God.

So Paul gives us these two thoughts:

- A: Jesus could return at any moment so be prepared.
- B: Live like Jesus in the light of His return.

Peter Falk (Columbo: pictured at the top of the screen) has a glass eye. He once went for an eye test and after completing the first eye the man testing him asked him to change eyes. "It's glass," Peter replied. "Well, just do your best," came the reply.

As Christians we need two eyes; one helping us to live like Jesus now and the other preparing us for His return. Possibly the two go hand in hand.

Question:

How do you keep the Second Coming of Jesus in your mind so that you are prepared?

A prayer:

Father God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to save us and thank you that he will come again to take us to be with you for eternity.

Amen.