

199830 thegreatreunionday johnmarine 1thess4

The book of 1st Thessalonians chapter 4 good to be with you this morning and Hope that you've come expecting a real blessing. How many are glad to be here this morning. Are you glad to be here? Good to see you.

They told me we should be through by 1115. So that means I'm gonna preach about five minutes Dinner served at 12, but I've come a long way and when I come I come to preach I have about 25 or 30 minutes that I'm going to preach So we'll all adjust our schedules and we'll give attendance to the preaching and the reading of the word Because that's the most important part of the service in our churches and our lives as Christians the word says that faith cometh by hearing and Hearing by the Word of God our faith is increased by the hearing of the Word of God And so we want to present to you the Word of God this morning because the Word of God is what convicts hearts and The Word of God brings change in our life, and so I hope that you've come expecting a blessing and let's began reading with 1st Thessalonians chapter 4 and I'm going to begin reading with verse 13 and we'll read down through verse 18 But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren concerning them which are asleep That you sorrow not even as others which have no hope For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again even so Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord that we which are alive and remain Unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep for the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout and with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God and The dead in Christ shall rise first then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and So shall we ever be with the Lord wherefore comfort? One another with these words shall we pray this morning our father? We are thankful this morning for the privilege that we have to stand in this place. This is the holy of holies This is the place where the Word of God is presented.

There are those that have needs this morning Some have traveled for a great distance and some perhaps live in the surrounding areas. Some have been here all week Some have come just for the weekend of services But Lord there is an appointed that time that you have given us to be here There's a reason to be here and there are those that will either Receive the message this morning and respond to it There will be those that perhaps will not respond but we trust that hearts would be as fertile ground this morning that we would break up the fallow ground that we would receive what you have for us and as we reflect upon that great day When you come back for us the coming of Christ that great reunion day That the time when we should be caught up with you to meet you in the air. What a wonderful wonderful Hope we have of heaven and we pray that as we speak on that subject this morning That hearts will be challenged and will be encouraged and lives will be changed in a wonderful Wonderful way and we'll thank you for it in Jesus name.

Amen. And amen Thank you And you may be seated and as I said last night some asked why we

put on our suitcoats and I put it on So I could take it off when I get up here I Have the mic on here gentlemen, if you want to flip this one on that'll be great and we'll go right from the little mic here on my time I read a little article here in my Bible my loose-leaf Bible and I was reading it to my wife and she said, you know, that's that's so true. I was I was looking at a Little expression here about the preacher and we hear much said about the preacher and I said to the folks last night I said I have been in my church for 29 years been at the same place and that almost seems like an impossibility to some and I am very proud of my church and proud of our people.

It's a joy to be able to minister to God's people It's wonderful to be in the Lord's work. It's a joy to be a Christian There's nothing that we have to it's not an endurance things It's a joy. You should come to church with with your heart filled and rejoicing You should come this morning because you have a need of being filled this morning with the Holy Spirit of God and Some are hurting this morning Some of you perhaps have gone through a difficult week and you're hurting and you need that Encouragement you need something that will strengthen you and help you as you face the rigors of life through the coming week That's what church is all about.

It's a place for young folks. It's a place for young people I believe that as parents we ought to encourage our youngsters our young teenagers. I believe they ought to be here in the church I believe we ought to encourage them to be in service When I was just a little fella growing up It was not an optional thing mom and dad didn't ask me a son.

Do you want to go to church? It was mandatory We went to church and they were following the admonition of the scripture That says if we train up a child in the way that he or she should go when they are old They'll not depart from it and so I'm glad this morning to be in service and I would hope that if you have young folks that you'll encourage them to Be here for the afternoon and for the evening service for we're expecting a great time in the Lord but I spoke of the preacher and I said that there is Perhaps such a thing as a perfect preacher and as I looked in my Bible, I found this Finally, they have found the perfect preacher Isn't it great when we find that's that individual this is how he is described. I thought it was rather humorous It says after hundreds of years a model preacher has been found to suit everyone He preaches exactly 20 minutes and then sits down He condemns sin, but never hurts anyone's feelings He works from 8 a.m. To 10 p.m. And every type of work from preaching to custodial service He made \$60 a week wears good clothes buys good books regularly and a nice family has Drives a good car and gives \$30 a week to the church He also stands ready to contribute to every good work that comes along He is 26 years old and has been preaching for 30 years Some of you will get that it takes a little while for you that kind of goes over your head Sometimes he is tall and short thin and heavy set Handsome he has one brown eye and one blue eye His hair is parted in the middle left side dark and straight the right side brown and wavy He has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spends all his time with the old folks He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his work He makes 15 calls a day on church members spends all his time Evangelizing the unchurched and is never out of his office. That is the perfect preacher Isn't it wonderful that we can find

someone like that? well as someone that said this morning as I was walking kind of around enjoying the surroundings and Thinking about the service.

They said that you're you're you're a Baptist preacher and I said that I am Understand you like a lot of amens. It seemed like we've had a lot of amens And we're a little more conservative over here in Canada and we don't say amen that much in our church He said I guess amens are good for you preachers I said no, sir. Amens are good for you folks in the congregation because it keeps you awake and I believe that we should come into the presence of the Lord with rejoicing He says Oh give thanks to the Lord for he is good in his mercy endureth forever We ought to praise him The Bible says that God inhabits the praise of his people and I believe that we ought to have an experience that we enjoy And I believe that we'll win more souls to Christ when they see that we have something that they want One individual said to me one time when I was trying to get him to come to church and trying to win him to the Lord he said, you know pastor He said I have observed Christians so often and he says if you're speaking of what they have I don't want any of that because I enjoy my life and he said that's not enjoyment for me But I'm glad this morning that I can say without a shadow of a doubt and stand on the authority of God's Word That it's a joy to be a Christian and it's not a matter of what you have to give up or what you have to stop Doing but it's a matter of what God wants you to do and what God places in your heart to do and I believe that if you have been saved and you've been saved for a number of years and you're going through your Experience and you're just enduring it then you need to get down to an old-fashioned altar sometime today and renew your experience With the Lord and let the joy of the Lord be felt in your heart and in your life In the our scripture reading this morning.

I want to share with you These verses and I'm going to skim my message down for sake of time this morning I said last night that if you would come today, I would tell you when Jesus is coming back Some have asked me what is the theme of your message? I've had several say what are you preaching on and then of course we try to gear the the service toward that Sometimes the Holy Spirit changes our minds, but this morning the Lord has laid upon my heart to speak on his coming I'd like to speak on the rapture of the church You might think of the coming of the Lord as the second coming We might call it another title that I gave to the fellows back in and the sound table There is the great reunion day the day when Jesus will come back But Paul says in verse 17, which will be our text verse this morning Then we which are alive and remain speaking of the coming of the Lord shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and So shall we ever be with the Lord Paul was speaking of the coming of the Lord and he was speaking of the rapture of the church Now when I read that I like to stop and just camp out a little bit on that first Verse where he says then we which are alive and remain Did you know that God's people are people that are alive? I wouldn't give you a dime for religion or an experience that you had to just kind of Tolerate and put up with aren't you glad that the church is alive? Aren't you glad as we mentioned on Friday night that there's power in this gospel That it changes lives and it causes individuals to have hope in their lives And so Paul says we which are alive. I believe the church needs to be alive I don't believe

that that means we sing hymns all the time I do not believe that that means we clap our hands and we shout and we praise him or perhaps we say amen just to get amens. That's not what I'm striving to do as a pastor because I'm going to preach whether you amen or not. But I believe that we ought to enjoy our experience and I believe that we which are alive I believe the church needs to be alive and I believe that we'll be more apt to win the lost souls if we'll show them that we have something that we can enjoy and something that encourages us and gives us hope for going on. And so we need to be alive. Paul says we which are alive and remain shall not prevent them which are asleep. He says that there will be those that will be caught up out of their graves. The graves will be open and they will be joined together with him as they're caught up and together we will meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Paul says in Colossians chapter 3 verses 1 and 4 he speaks to the general theme that Christ who is our life when he shall appear then shall ye also appear unto him with him in glory. It's wonderful to know that when Jesus comes back, that's what we're looking for. I believe that we're on the threshold of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe that the scene has been set. I believe the stage is in order and I believe that we're on the threshold of his coming. I believe that if you were ever going to get saved you need to get saved today. I wouldn't put it off another another moment if you ever going to start serving the Lord I would start serving him today. If you were ever going to get sent out of your life I would do it today. If you're ever going to start teaching a class or getting involved in the church well, if you were ever going to submit to a call of God in your life I would do it today because I believe that Jesus is coming soon. This has been a wonderful week. I'm sure for those that have been here all week.

It's been a glorious time for our family in these few days. It's kind of like a reunion. I guess every year some of you I've heard testimonies. Some have said I've been their pastor for 20 years or I've come back for 10 years or 15 years. It's kind of like a reunion time and I was thinking of that great reunion day when Jesus comes back. Paul speaks of that glorious time when we're going to be together. All of God's people and will be joined together. We'll be joined together to join him in heaven and I thought it will be a great reunion day. In the states we have we come and we were born in the southern part of the states and in the southern part of the States we used to have family reunions and I guess perhaps some of you relate to that. Perhaps even up here in Canada you have family reunions. We have reunions and they would call families from miles around to come and gather a certain time of the year. They would have neighbors would join in and it would be a glorious time of reunion they would call it the This either maybe the Smith family reunion or the Jones family reunion in our case. It would be the marine family reunion. And I mean families would come from miles around all over the states and and they would join together. For a few days or perhaps a week of meetings. We would meet as a family they would usually put an ad in the newspaper and advertise that there would be a marine family reunion and there would be good food served and old-fashioned cooking old Country-style cooking the good meals that we've had up here have encouraged me in my preaching. I've enjoyed the wonderful meals and shouldn't we be thankful for the wonderful people that have provided the

wonderful meals and the Accommodations for us and we need to give them a good. Amen.

Don't we this morning and let's give them a good Amen this morning. Amen. Thank you for the wonderful job that you've done but many times they would even invite special music to these reunions and I can recall when that we would have Singing and all of the family would gather around Some of you perhaps can relate to that They might even invite a preacher to come and strange as it may sound a preacher would sometimes even preach a message at a family reunion and what a thrill it was when loved ones would gather together and we would We hadn't seen each other for years.

We would meet together. We would laugh a little we would spin yarns We would talk about times in the past and we would reflect on some of those perhaps that had gone on and we would think About the wonderful time of being together we would eat and sing and just kind of reminisce but assume the hours would pass and the week would come to an end and it was time to part our ways and Everyone would go their separate ways returning home and perhaps there was the possibility that some would leave that We would never see again. They would be gone and we would never see them again I think of that song the beautiful song that Fanny Crosby wrote of the call the lights of home and she said Oh for the friends that now are waiting in the cloudless realms of day She said they are calling me to follow where their steps have led the way.

I shall see them and I shall know them I shall sing their song above and we'll all sing. Hallelujah in our father's house above It's a wonderful thing when we think about the coming of the Lord when we think about the time when Jesus is coming back for His Saints and I want to address just three issues this morning concerning the coming of the Lord We're not going to get into the events perhaps that are significant or the last day signs or indicators But we're going to speak about three things concerning his coming I want to speak on who will be there and I want to speak on where it will be and Thirdly, I want to speak on when it will be I said last night I would tell you when Jesus is coming back and I will do that in my third point But I want you to notice in our scripture reading it talks about who will be there. Look at verse 14 It says for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again Even so them which also sleep in Jesus will God bring with him when he comes The Bible says that those that sleep in Christ Jesus Paul when he spoke to the Corinthians He talked about those that were sickly and he said to the Corinthian Church He said many of you are sickly and he said there are some that even sleep.

He was talking about Physical death and we relate that to sleeping But I like to think of it as being in the presence of the Lord But the great Apostle Paul says that when we're absent from this body, then we are present with the Lord He says for me to live is Christ and to die is gain and so I'm thankful this morning in knowing that as I stand here and Proclaim the wonderful story that Jesus saves and that Jesus gives us Hope that all of those that have died in the Lord Jesus Christ, and I have family members I have a mother and a father and grandparents all have since gone on to be with the Lord I have some uncles and some aunts and I have some special friends and special acquaintances even in my church I was reflecting on some of those

that have been instrumental in the building of my church And I was thinking of one dear old deacon that has since gone on to be with the Lord and I was speaking to someone Out in the yard just a few moments before the service and I said, you know They were so faithful to the Lord Senior citizens sometimes feel like that. Maybe their work is completed and they're not really needed in the church But I said to this dear couple out in the yard I said that senior citizens are so important to the church this morning and I thought of this dear old deacon the chairman of my Deacon board who faithfully came to service every service. He came without a doubt No, no fear that he would not that he would be missing.

He would always be there He would pack his car and he would drive some 25 or 30 miles on Sunday morning go back home Sunday Sunday morning Come back Sunday night back home Sunday night Wednesday night and any other time that we had services and I thought what a joy it is that I'm going to see brother George again I'm going to see all of those that have gone on Paul says that those which have died in Christ Jesus He says they're going to be a part of that great reunion day. I'm saying to you this morning It's wonderful that we can have that hope yes, we lose loved ones and there's an emptiness and there's a void and Sometimes there's a loneliness that we we must depend upon the Lord to help get us through Just recently. I laid to rest My dear father-in-law Several weeks ago and I preached his funeral and what a what a joy it was to be able to stand and say that we could Have hope that we would see him again, you know as a Christian There's hope the psalmist said yay, though.

I walked through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for thou art with me thy rod and thy staff They comfort me all my friends because we're saved this morning. We don't have to go through that death experience We may go through the valley of the shadow of death, but the psalmist said that he is with us The Lord is with us He said that he would go with us and his rod and his staff would be there and he would comfort us and he would guide Us through oh, I'm so thankful this morning that I have that hope how many are glad this morning that you have a hope that assures You that you're going to heaven when you die say man It says that those that which have died in Jesus are going to be caught up in that great Reunion day when Jesus comes back, but notice also he says in verse 16 He says the Lord himself shall descend. I'm glad that Jesus is going to be a part of that great reunion day I'm glad that it says we which are alive and remain we which are alive and remain There's only one assurance that you have this morning that you're going to see the Lord And I want to state this very emphatically and I want you to get exactly what I'm saying this morning I'm a Baptist preacher, but that is immaterial this morning.

It doesn't matter what church we belong to It doesn't matter whether you're a Baptist or Methodist It doesn't matter if you're Presbyterian or Lutheran or Catholic or a member of some other church or the Missionary Alliance Church or whatever church It is church membership will not get you into heaven Religion will never get you there The Pharisees were religious and they were the ones that Jesus had the most problem with They were the ones that wanted to stand in the marketplace and pray They wanted to lift up their testimony of all that they had done for the tabernacle in and all that they had done in the temple They wanted to brag about keeping

the law of Moses one the Pharisee as he stood in the marketplace He said I'm thankful that I'm not like the old publican over there He said I'm glad that I paid my tithes. He said I'm glad that I've been faithful in the worship services I'm glad that I have given I'm glad that I have fasted twice a week He said I have done all of these things and yet this little publican smote his breast and he said Oh Lord Please be merciful to me a sinner and the Bible said that Jesus stated that that little publican went down to his house Justified you know why because he came in honesty to meet the Savior I want you to know that it's not because you live a good life. It's not because of the deeds that you do It's not because you know the Bible.

It's not because you give to the church It's not because you have a great talent and you use it for God But my friend there's only one basis on which you will be a part of that great reunion day and that is if you have come in childlike faith to the foot of the cross and you have asked Jesus Christ to come into Your life and heart and the Bible says for by grace Are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves? It is a gift of God Jesus said to his disciples in John chapter 14 He was going away and they were concerned and he said let not your hearts be troubled You believe in God believe also in me for in my father's house are many mansions if it were not So I would have told you and then Jesus went on to explain to those disciples He said I am the way and the truth and the life one of the disciples said Lord show us the way Show us the Father give us some kind of a sign and it will help us. Oh God help us We haven't gone that way How can we know that it's the true way and Jesus said in John chapter 14 in that most familiar verse verse 6 He said I am the way and the truth and the life He says no man cometh under the Father except by me and I'm saying to you that there is No other way that you're going to get into heaven except through the way of the old-fashioned cross and a blood-washed experience I'm saying to you this morning as the Apostle Paul when he said neither is there salvation in any other for there is none of The name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved Oh my friends if you want to be a part of that great reunion when Jesus comes back when he splits the eastern sky and when he comes back If you want to be a part of that great cloud of witnesses Then you need to buy simple childlike faith trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior Oh someone says but I can believe that there's a God I can believe then doing good deeds I can believe in living a good life. Oh my friend You can believe in God But if you deny Jesus Christ as the Son of God if you do not accept him as the one that was born of a virgin Conceived of the Holy Spirit of God, then you cannot gain entrance into the kingdom of God I'm saying today in a day when there's compromise in a day when they want to take Portions of the Word of God and explain it away and take it out of this wonderful book I'm here to tell you that all scripture is given by inspiration of God and it is profitable for doctrine for reproof and for instruction correction and instruction unto righteousness Jesus said when the heavens and the earth pass away My words shall remain the only thing that you can stand on this morning The only thing that you can know with a surety is based upon the Word of God when he comes back You can say I have been washed in the blood of the Lamb Jesus will be there, but he says that there will be a great cloud of witnesses in Hebrews chapter 12 He talks about those witnesses.

You say preacher. Do you believe that? What do you mean witnesses? He says wherefore we are compassed about We're so great a cloud of witnesses He says let us lay aside every weight shake off those weights that are holding you down this morning Shake off whatever it might be. It might be religion.

It might be an experience It might be something that is hindering your life. It might be a relationship. It might be an acquaintance It might be a sin that you're not willing to turn loose He said let us lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us There's only one sin that will send you to hell that's singular someone says Oh, I wish I knew what the unpardonable sin was listen There's only one sin the only sin that will send you to hell my friend is the sin of rejecting the Holy Spirit of God The sin that rejects the Holy Spirit as he pleads with you and as he convicts you of your sin you constantly reject him and turn him away and then you will die in your sins and Certainly, you will not go to heaven He says lay aside every weight in the sin that doth so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set Before us Paul mentions those great cloud of witnesses in Hebrews chapter 11 He talks about those witnesses and he speaks of those that have by faith and you notice all of them are prefaced by faith He speaks goes back to the days of Noah by faith Noah.

He talks about by faith Abraham by faith Isaac and by faith Joseph and he talks about Moses by faith Moses by faith Joshua and he even talks about a prostitute. He talks about a streetwalker. You say preacher Is there any hope for me this morning? I'm not a very religious person I'm not too good But is there any hope that I can go to heaven my Bible tells me that there was a streetwalker there was one named Rahab that God spared in a time of crisis and It mentions her in that great Hall of Fame Patriarchs of faith by faith Rahab.

She is in heaven this morning because of faith my friends It's faith that great cloud of witnesses You can know this morning when Jesus comes back that you're going to be joined together with all of those that have died in Christ Jesus and you will go up to be with him forever what a wonderful thought it is the psalmist says unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood and then the word goes on to say and hath made us kings and and Priests unto God and his father. Oh, we used to sing that song the meeting in the air We used to talk about there is going to be a meeting a grand and glorious meeting in the air in this sweet Sweet by and by I'm going to meet you meet you there in my home beyond the sky What shouting that will be what rejoicing that will be when we will all be together in God's great tomorrow Oh my friend That's the hope we have as we sit here in this stainer camp and the world Continues to evolve around us as we take just a few moments this morning Our voices and praise and adoration we can know with a surety in our hearts that we're going to be ready When Jesus comes back you say well preacher you talked about who will be there and where will it be? Well, let me give you some thoughts here. He says we'll be caught up together to meet the Lord in the clouds Well, he speaks of the meeting in the air the marriage supper of the Lamb And then of course, we will reign for 1,000 years We call it the millennial reign of Christ and the Lord will establish his kingdom and set up his kingdom then he spoke of 10,000 years in his song and it says that 10,000 years is as a day with the Lord and a day is As a 10,000 years with the Lord.

Oh, it's going to be a wonderful time when Jesus comes back and we're going to be there If you're saved this morning and I would say don't leave this camp in all that I've said to you this morning Last night and the night before and all the messages that have been preached Don't you dare leave this camp this week without the assurance that? Jesus Christ lives in your heart and lives in your life. That's the message of the church that's what people are hungry for they want to hear the gospel of Christ that changes the lives and Changes them from the gutter most to the uttermost. Oh, I'm so thankful that this gospel can save young folks I've observed young people and I've passed them by sometimes coming out of the dorms I've seen him sitting on the walks and I've seen him sitting at the Tables and playing little card games and what have you and I thought oh my if we could just get all of our young people In the service, I believe that families need to gather together I believe that we ought to give we ought to give attention to the Word of God We ought to be in the place of God.

This is not only the place where God dwells He dwells with us wherever we go But I'm so glad that on the certain time on Sunday morning We have appointed a time and place when we're going to join together to worship him The Bible says in Job 26 in verse 7 He stretches out the north over the empty place and hangeth the earth on nothing in Isaiah 14 in verse 13 He says for thou has said in thine heart. I will ascend into heaven I will exalt my throne above the stars of God I will sit upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north in the Psalms 75 in verse 6 It says for promotion cometh from the east nor from the east nor the west nor from the south So I just assumed that promotion will come from the north. Someone says someplace in the north I like the story that was told about the little native boy He was converted by the missionary and he became gravely ill when he was on his deathbed The missionary questioned him to be sure of his testimony and he said to the little native boy He said a son.

He said, are you sure that you're saved? He said, oh, yes. I know I'm saved master He says master. I know that I'm saved.

He said I know that I'm going to see Jesus I'm longing to see Jesus and the missionary said was son said, how do you know you're going to see Jesus? Oh, he said master. I know I'm gonna see him wherever Jesus is He says I'm going to be there with him and the old missionary wanted to test him a little he said well son Let me ask you this what if Jesus were to go down into hell, where would where would you go? Then he said oh, I would follow him I would follow him into hell because he says master wherever Jesus is it's truly heaven enough for me Wherever Jesus is will be heaven It doesn't matter the place or the location Heaven is some place in the great beyond and the Bible speaks of that great city in Revelation chapter 21 It talks about that great city. It talks about it coming down from heaven It talks about a place where the streets are purest gold It talks about a place where the gates are made of pearl It talks about a place where the foundations of those gates are made of precious stones diamonds and rubies Oh, it says that there'll be no night there and the Son of God will light the city thereof Oh, there'll be no gates that need to be locked in heaven.

There'll be no crime in heaven. There'll be no funerals in heaven Thank God, there'll be no

sickness in heaven There'll be no wickedness in heaven for it says the gates should be opened by day and there shall be no night there There'll be no need of the Son of God s o n for the Son of God s u n for the Son of God SON will light the city thereof. Oh my friend.

It doesn't matter where it's at. Someone says where is heaven? Oh, listen, wherever Jesus is that's heaven enough for me And then finally you say well preacher you say when he's coming back well, he's coming back and I'm going to give you several biblical Explanations as to when he's coming back The Bible says in 1st Corinthians 15 and verse 52 now get this and write it down. So, you know He's coming back in a moment and in the twinkling of an eye You just batted your eye.

That's how soon he's coming one day old Scottish preacher that I loved that was responsible for My pastoring I guess in my church. He was candidating and he was a pastor for numerous years in our area. Dr John Hunter and he he asked I was a student in seminar and I said, dr John I said I'd like to if I could just go and Fill your pulpit while you're away on vacation.

He said John I have something better for you So I have a church for you. So I'm not going there I was going to candidate but I said it's too close to my church and he said I'm not going to go and you go And preach for me. I was just a student had no plans on pastoring didn't want to pass Didn't know anything about pastoring and I went and preached and they asked me to come back and I went back and then they called Me to pastor and I've been there ever since but I was thinking of dr.

John's explanation. Someone said John dr Hunter what is the explanation of the twinkling of an eye? How soon would Jesus come back and then that old Scottish brogue that he spoke? He said it's as quick as it takes a woman driver behind you to blow the horn when the light changes He said that's how quick the twinkling of an eye is my friend The Lord Jesus is going to come back in the moment in the twinkling of a time in of an eye It says when the trumpet sounds thank God We've heard the trumpet sounding this one when the trumpet sounds all the dead in Christ shall rise and then we which are alive Should be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air and then it says in Mark chapter 24 Matthew 24 in verse 44. This is the verse that I was going to give you You say when would Jesus comes back and it says in verse 44.

He will come back at a time That you think not there are those this morning you don't think he's coming back He could come back that soon He's coming back at a time. Paul says when there's great There's a great Falling away in the church. He says perilous times shall come and he describes the people of that day There'll be those without natural affection.

And of course we see that today running rampant throughout society He says there will be those that will be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God There will be those that will have a form of godliness But deny the power thereof He says that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith. Thank God not many but some Giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils having their conscience seared as with a hot iron Did you know we tolerate things today and we permit things today that we would never have thought about permitting 20 years ago

Did you know we accept things today that we would have never accepted 10 years ago 15 years ago He says that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith It's not an uncommon thing for me to counsel with someone that's leaving their marriage. They're quitting on the marriage It may be that on occasion someone will come and say I'm quitting on the church I'm gonna leave the church and I've had individuals say, you know, the church doesn't do it for me.

I Always tell them don't join my church because you'll spoil it You'll not find a perfect church. In fact, if you find a perfect church You better join it because they're not they're very few and far behind between you won't find many perfect churches But I've had individuals say to me I would join the church I would love to serve the Lord, but they're hypocrites. And did you know the Christians? That's exactly what the unsaved are looking They're looking for something in your life that is inconsistent and they say there are hypocrites in the church Jesus is coming back for his church his bride Yes, there are hypocrites in the church.

I wish I could say there were no hypocrites in the church There are I have them in my church And I remember one fellow said I you know, I can't join the church because of hypocrites in the church I said to him well Then if you're consistent in what you say, then you shouldn't go to the supermarket because you shop with hypocrites there Don't go to work tomorrow because you work with hypocrites Wherever you go, you're going to find hypocrites. Thank God there may be some hypocrites in the church, but I'd rather go to heaven with a few hypocrites in the church than to go to Hell with a carload of those that aren't hypocrites or we think they're not a man I'm glad this morning that there's hope this morning in Christ Jesus When will it be at a time when you think not? When will he come back for his church? Says there shall be a great falling away perilous times There shall be earthquakes and divers places the disciples said to Jesus in Matthew 25 What shall be the sign of thy coming show us? What will it be like in the end of the world? And Jesus went on in that Mount Olivet discourse to say to them and answer that threefold question And he went on to mention the signs he said wars and rumors of wars and famines and pestilences and earthquakes and divers places and he said that there would be a Nation rising against nation warring against nation and then he said you would be hated of all nations for my name's sake He said at a time when you think not that's when I'm coming. I Have to take inventory in my church.

I Tell my folks every Sunday. We're here not to play church This is not just a religious experience We're not just a social agency. We're not an organization We're here as a body of believers To try to find someone that needs to know the way and show them and point them to Christ We're here to strengthen and to encourage the Saints so that they'll be ready when Jesus comes The little girl went home one morning after hearing the message Her parents let her in the house.

She ran in ahead of them and off she went into one of the rooms they went and hung up their coats and Then they looked around for and called for but they couldn't find her They looked in the rooms their bedrooms looked in the dining and living room couldn't find her and finally they saw the attic door open They went up the stairs into the attic and there she was sitting at the window. She was looking up into the night Gazing at the stars. They said honey.

What are you doing? She said daddy mommy. She said the preacher preached Today about Jesus coming and she said I wanted to be the first one to see him when he comes Are you steeped in religion this morning? Are you enduring your experience? Let me tell you that Jesus saves Jesus loves Jesus gives us hope and that one day we're gonna all be together When he comes back for his own Rapture is not a word you'll find in the scripture He's a preacher rapture isn't found that no, it's not But the idea and the theme of that quick catching away and will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air I want old heads bowed. No one looking around and this morning as we close the service I want to do this and I'm asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide and direct me and Everything I do as we come to a close God holds me responsible for this time that I have put in The time that I will share with you this afternoon and tonight As I've said, this is special to me I will give an account to the Lord for the way I conduct myself in the message that I speak to you I will not answer to a board.

I will not answer to a hierarchy I will not answer to man, but I will answer to God and I want to be sure as we drive away this evening Heading back toward the States That I have touched the hearts of someone and perhaps helped someone find a way If you're here this morning with heads bowed and no one looking around and you say pastor You've kind of touched on who will be there and where it will happen and when it will happen I'm not sure this morning that I'm a Christian and I would like to know without a shadow of a doubt this morning That I can be ready when Jesus comes and I'm gonna ask you to do something that's going to demand some courage But Jesus said if you'll confess me before men, I'll confess you before my father Which is in heaven if you want to be sure this morning As we stand and sing just a verse of a song I'm gonna ask you to come and make your way down to the front of this old-fashioned Tabernacle or tent or the old-fashioned? Is a stainer building whatever it is this old-fashioned building and stand here and by doing that doing so say preacher I want to assure Myself this morning that I'm ready when Jesus comes you may have been here all week You've enjoyed the blessings of God and you've enjoyed the wonderful camp atmosphere But in your heart this morning as I preach to you, you said pastor I'm not sure and I want to be sure and it's it's not it's it's not a Difficult thing to do as you step out Jesus Will walk with you. I'm gonna have you stand if you would please right now to your feet And I want us to bow our heads and I'm gonna pray and then we're gonna sing and then I'm gonna meet you here Would you come and stand with me this morning? And be assured that When Jesus comes you're ready to meet him father, you know every heart Holy Spirit walk through the aisles of this old-fashioned tabernacle here Holy Spirit we know that the devil doesn't want to hear he doesn't want this message to go forth He doesn't want to see people saved He wants to try to defeat folks and try to discourage them But Lord, there are those this morning that have received the message and they know that they need to make that decision this morning we pray they'll respond as the invitation is given and Holy Spirit will leave that to you. We can't do any more now We've delivered the message and now Holy Spirit of God and we leave the rest to you Whether one responds or whether ten or were whether a hundred respond We leave that entirely up to you in Jesus name.

I Want 26 in your hymn book Would you just step out? Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling you say preacher. I want to be sure this morning you step out and come as we sing Join us See on the portals he's waiting and watching Watching are you? Oh His calling calling Before we sing the last verse, this will be the last verse we will sing, no other verse. But I want you to give me your direct attention, young folks, moms and dads.

We're at a point in time, God has brought us to this place. You could live your whole life. You could accumulate stocks and bonds, send your kids to college.

You can succeed in terms of this life. You might even have your name on a church roll. You might say, I'm a decent person, I obey the laws.

Down deep in your heart, you know with a surety that if Jesus were to come back, you're unprepared. What a wonderful opportunity it would be. It doesn't matter what anyone thinks.

Oh, listen, I wouldn't care what my neighbor thinks or what he says or what she says. I want to be sure that it is well with my soul. If you're here and you're a Christian, we'll open up the invitation to you and you're not serving the Lord as though Jesus were coming.

You're just kind of serving Him day to day and you're not serving. There's an urgency. If you're ever going to do something for God, do it now.

If you're ever going to get involved in the church, do it now. If you're ever going to win that family of yours, do it now. You're ever going to get victory in your life, you need to do it now.

As we sing this last verse, I'm going to ask you if you'll come and stand. If you're that interested in your soul, if you're not, then I wouldn't want you to come. But if you are genuinely interested and if you'll come, the Lord will meet you here.

Will you come as we sing? Oh, for the wonderful love He has promised, promised for you and for me. Last opportunity this morning. Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

Come home, come home, if you are weary, come home. Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling all sinners, come home. We're going to close now.

We're not going to sing another verse. A dear old pastor friend told me, he said he preached a revival, I think it was in the States. He said he went the whole week and he said there was no response in the meeting.

He said yet he knew there were some needs there. He said the last night of the meeting, he said he gave the invitation. He said he knew it was his last night and when he gave the invitation, he said if there's someone, if one person will make the move, revival comes when one person makes a move.

Then it seems like it opens the floodgates and others come. He said, I just sense and feel that

someone should come. And there was a dear old lady that left her seat on the far side of the congregation and went all the way over to the other side.

She took the hand of a dear lady there. He had no knowledge of it. But there had been some hard feelings and some difficult feelings and difficult times.

And they made amends there right in the body of the church and they came forward to that altar. And he said that it was as though the floodgates were open. He said people just responded.

I'm saying to you this morning that perhaps one person that God has spoken to, if you would come, it be the means of others coming, without any instruments, just as we close in prayer before. Let's sing that a cappella. And if God's speaking to you, I feel and sense that there may be someone that would like to come.

This will be the last little verse, a cappella, everyone's singing, just on the chorus. Old-fashioned tent meetings, brush arbor meetings we used to call them. One person, maybe a young man, God speaking to your heart, calling to service.

One grandmother, if you came. One mom, one dad. Church needs to be set on fire today for Jesus' sake.

He wants you to come home. Let's sing on the chorus, just before we dismiss. Is God speaking to you this morning? One person coming might be the means of others.

Don't let the devil defeat you today. You say, if I can just get out of here, I'll get off my mind, I'll forget. No, the Lord's dealing with you now.

Why don't you respond and just let the Holy Spirit work in your life. You'll feel so good when you leave. What a fill it is.

You'll feel like a stone has been lifted off of you. Sing the chorus again then. You'll feel like that a burden has been lifted.

Maybe there are others that would like to come. You would like to pray. As saints of God, when someone comes forward, you should be willing to go and pray with them.

They may need to know the way of salvation. You see, the Lord wants revival in His church. If we get our minds off of the world, get our minds on the Lord, we could see a great move of God.

If we would. While these are praying, come home. Come home.

Just before we close, life-changing decisions. Jesus could come right now. Are you ready? Oh yes, young folks, moms and dads.

What a joy it would be to be together. Let's bow our heads. Thank you for your wonderful attention.

While these that have come are praying, let's pray with them. Let's bow our heads and let me say this prayer. Father, you know each and every need.

There are those that have come this morning that have needs. We pray that you will minister to them in a special way. Lord, we pray that whatever the needs are, that you will meet that need in Jesus' name.

Lord, help our churches to become alive. Send revival. Lord, help us as individuals to get out of the way and let the Holy Spirit move.

Help us to see lives changed. Lord, we know the seats will be filled and the walls will bust out. We will see new members because we have seen new converts.

Bless us, we pray, in Jesus' name. I wonder just as we close, we have some that have come to pray. Would you like to come here and pray with this dear lady? She has come.

I'm not sure what her need is. But is there a Christian, someone, my wife or somebody? If you will come, yes. In our church, we have folks that come and pray.

You know, when I'm gone, you do it your way. And when I'm here, we'll do it my way. I tell everybody, we're not right always.

We do things differently in our church. But I have to follow the leadership of the Lord right here. Just pray here, honey.

Help her in prayer. There may be needs in her life. Amen.

While they're praying, let me tell you just for a moment. Let me say this. It's 12 o'clock.

The meal is ready. And thank you for your wonderful attention. Be back this afternoon.

We're going to have a great service. And I'm going to speak a little bit on giving. And we talked about that last night.

And I had so many requests. And if you want to know how to be blessed in your giving, the tithe and the offering, we'll say more about it this afternoon. And God bless you.

You've been so patient. You say, I'm a hot preacher. Well, listen, I'm doubly hot.

You think you've been through a little bit. I've been through a little bit. Thank you and God bless you.

And we'll dismiss you. And you can go to dinner. If you'd like to come and pray with ease, you feel free to do that.

Go in reverence. God bless you. This is the day the Lord hath made.

We will rejoice. And be glad in it.