

Who Am I?

Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ

Week Six

Day Five

WHAT YOU LOOKIN' AT?

“Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky?’ ”

(Acts 1:11a)



Unlocking the Mystery

Have you ever taken someone to the airport and watched them take off in the airplane? I remember standing at the window just watching as the airplane taxied out to the runway. There was a sense of anticipation as the airplane began to pick up speed. Faster and faster and then there is lift off. At the window, I watched as that huge machine became smaller and smaller in the air as it ascended higher and higher. Then, before I knew it, the plane was out of sight. There was a brief moment of emptiness as I thought of how I would miss that person, and then all of a sudden, I jolted back to reality and became busy while I waited for the return of the person I just witnessed taking off. I knew in a week I would be right back in this place watching for that person to return in the same way he left.

This is the description God brought to mind as I asked Him to show me how to begin this lesson. The rest of the verse quoted above says, “This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.” Can you picture Jesus leading His companions out to the mountain, expressing a few last words and sentimental thoughts with them, and then all of a sudden start to ascend into the sky? He goes higher and higher becoming smaller and smaller in the eyes of those that stood there to watch until finally He is out of sight. I try to imagine the awe they felt. First, the miracle of Jesus’ ascent into the sky, but secondly, their beloved friend going away. I imagine them in that brief moment looking upward and feeling empty or alone. Then, all of a sudden they were brought back to reality with a jolt by two men in white saying, “**What you lookin at?**” Just for a split second, did they think, “Are you kidding? Didn’t you just see Jesus floating in the air? Dude, how did you miss that?” Okay, those were my thoughts! But those two men in white continue to encourage the people, “Don’t worry, He’s coming back someday. As a matter of fact, He is coming back the same way He went away. Go about your business and prepare for His return. It may be awhile, but be assured, He is coming back!”

Over the course of this week, you travelled back to the night before Jesus died. You visited His resurrection. You learned of the Counselor He promised to give, and you learned of Jesus’ last minute instructions as He ascended to go home. In this lesson, I want to awaken your awareness and encourage you

with hope for the times we are about to face. God has been stirring this message in my heart since I began preparing for this week's study. Ask God to open your eyes and open your heart because the anticipated return of Christ is just around the corner!

HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT WE MUST FACE

On day two this week we visited the last night Jesus shared with His closest disciples. He knew He had to face one dark night filled with pain and ending in death but He also knew He had to go through this dark night to get to the glorious light of His resurrection. He was willing to face that dark night because He knew the victory was on the other side. We are now faced with that same decision. In these last days we can see the anticipated return of Christ fast approaching. We can list fulfilled prophecies one after the other, but there is also fast approaching a dark night that we must be willing to face as Christians to receive our victory of His Glorious Light. Let us study now to understand what I am talking about.



Understanding the Word

HE TOLD US WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

DIGGING DEEPER: There is an abundance of Scripture I am going to pull from today. I am not going to pull from any of our OT prophets for this lesson. I am going to focus on the words of Christ and the NT writers. Also, my message is not on the details and order of the end time, but rather on the preparing yourself to face the end time.

The Scriptures are here for you to study. The subject matter, oftentimes, encompasses the entire passage even though just a few scriptures were listed. Take your time and enjoy your independent study.

OLD TESTAMENT	NT GOSPELS	NEW TESTAMENT	
Psalms 98:8-9	Matthew 16:27-28	Acts 1:11	Hebrews 9:28
Isaiah 11:3b-4	Matthew 24:15-51	1 Corinthians 4:5	1 Peter 5:4
Isaiah 35:3-5	Matthew 25:31-46	1 Corinthians 15:23	2 Peter 3:8-14
Isaiah 40:10-11	Matthew 26:64	Philippians 3:20-21	1 John 3:2
Isaiah 62:11-12	Mark 13:1-37	1 Thessalonians 1:10	Jude 14-15
Isaiah 66:15-16	Luke 17:22-37	1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:3	Revelation 1:7
Ezekiel 43:2	John 14:3	2 Thessalonians 1:7-2:8	Revelation 16:15
Joel 1:15		1 Timothy 6:14-15	Revelation 19:11-16
Zechariah 8:3-15		2 Timothy 4:8	Revelation 22:12
Zechariah 9:10		Titus 2:13	Revelation 22:20
Zechariah 14:3-9			
Malachi 4:2-3			

Match the letter of the scripture reference to the paraphrased scripture message;
in some cases more than one answer applies.

HE IS COMING BACK SO BE READY

	Our Citizenship is in heaven, not here on earth
	Because of our relationship with Jesus, we will be handed over, persecuted, and hated by all nations
	The day will be just another ordinary day as it was with Noah
	He could come at any time; it is going to be as a thief in the night
	There is going to be much deception accompanied with miracles performed to persuade people away from Jesus
	The lawless one (antichrist) will be revealed

A	MATTHEW 24:36
B	MATTHEW 24:38
C	PHILIPPIANS 3:20
D	1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-3
E	MATTHEW 24:9
F	2 THESSALONIANS 2:8
G	MATTHEW 24:4
H	2 THESSALONIANS 2:9-10

HE IS COMING BACK TO TAKE US AWAY

	He will be coming back in the clouds with a loud trumpet call
	Dead in Christ will rise, then we will meet up with them in the air
	He promises to rescue us from the full wrath
	We will be like Him
	We will receive our Crown of Glory
	He will come a second time then our salvation will be complete

A	MATTHEW 24:27-31
B	1 PETER 5:4
C	REVELATION 1:7
D	1 THESSALONIANS 4:15
E	1 JOHN 3:2
F	HEBREWS 9:28
G	1 THESSALONIANS 1:10

HE IS COMING BACK TO JUDGE

God is just	A MATTHEW 25:31-46
He is going to separate the sheep and the goats	B JUDE 14-15
His light will expose the darkness	C 1 CORINTHIANS 4:5
Lord is coming with thousands of His holy ones	D 2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-10

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: 2 Peter 3:8-9

V. 8-9 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a _____ is like a thousand years, and a _____ are like a day. The Lord is not _____ in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is _____ with you, not wanting anyone to _____, but _____ to come to _____.

HE HAS EMPOWERED US TO STAND

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: 1 Corinthians 10:12

V. 12 So, if you think you are standing _____, be careful that you don't fall!

DIGGING DEEPER: Matthew 24:10; 2 Peter 3:17

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Matthew 24:10; 2 Peter 3:17

Matthew 24:10 At that time many will _____ from the _____ and will betray and hate each other.

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2 Peter 3:17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your _____ so that you may not be _____ by the error of lawless men and from your _____ position.

DIGGING DEEPER: Romans 8:1-17

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Romans 8:5-6; 13-14; 16-17

V. 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what?

Those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on what?

V. 6 The mind of sinful man is _____

The mind controlled by the Spirit is _____

V. 13-14 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

V. 16-17 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs –heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.

DIGGING DEEPER: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-16

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15

V. 13 ...from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the _____ and through belief in the _____.

V. 14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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V. 15 So then, brothers, _____ and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

Jesus has called us to live eternally with Him. Since He called us, He prepared us to stand through anything by His Spirit until the day we gain our eternal reward.

To awaken our awareness of that which we are about to face; that is the desired outcome of this lesson. Jesus understands what we must face; Jesus tells us what we must face, but also Jesus has empowered us to stand in the midst of what we must face in the end times. Jesus understands because He already faced it Himself. The details that Jesus gave are so many that I needed to narrow them down to make them easier to understand. He told us so many details to watch for and to be on guard against, that if we are caught off guard, we really have no excuse. Besides the time, which could be anytime, we know how and where. We have details of what is going to be going on around us, so we recognize the time is near. Jesus has empowered us with His Spirit. I don't know about you, but if I have to face any or all of the things to come, I want as much of Him as I can obtain!



Through these passages and through many other passages, we are faced with the question, “How are we supposed to live until He comes?” My answer, “Live with integrity in the life Jesus has prepared us for.” I know living all out for Jesus is hard. Our flesh wages war with our spirit; we are faced with temptations like never before, and the world is doing away with absolute truth. I promise you though, if you live your life according to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, you will know absolute truth. If you walk in obedience according to the commands in Scripture, you will know what to do. If you allow the Holy Spirit to reign in your life, you will not only be able to endure and stand to the end, but you will do it with power, grace, and authority that can only come from our God.

Living a life of integrity is a choice; a choice that cannot be completed without power, grace, and authority. Jesus is coming back! That is a fact. The time for Christians is going to become rough. We are going to see people fall away; we are going to see God denied, and we are going to see Christians face persecution and hatred on His behalf. We are also going to see more true miracles and experience more power through revival in the body of Christ. The choice you have made and continue to make on a daily basis to live with integrity pleases our Lord; therefore, we will face that dark night with the power of the Holy Spirit, the grace of God, and the authority of Jesus Christ.

So let me ask, “What you lookin’ at?” It is my prayer that you are “lookin’ at” the soon return of Jesus Christ and the fullness of our heavenly reward. Are you awake? Are you aware? The time is almost here!