

Living Ready for His Return pt. 3

Matthew 24:10-13

How wonderful it is to know that Jesus will be getting us any time now. In light of His soon return, He expects to find us living ready for His return (see Matt. 24:42 and 44). So, the question we are answering this month is, “What does Jesus want our readiness to look like?”

In our last session, we saw how Jesus wants to find us having God’s kind of love fully operating in our hearts when He arrives. Today our text will show us that Jesus also wants to find us standing firm when He comes to get us.

After talking about the tough things, that we Christians will face, Jesus promised us in **Matthew 24:13 “But he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”** So, in what manner are we to stand firm and how does one actually do it? We get our answer from the Word of God.

The Bible speaks in several places about the different ways that we are to be standing firm. We can sum all of these up in three categories. We are to stand firm in the faith, we are to stand firm in our freedom, and we are to stand firm in our unity.

Standing Firm in The Faith:

1 Corinthians 16:13-14, “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.”

To stand firm in the faith means to be determined to not let anything move us away from the teachings of the Bible that comprise our Christian faith (i.e. what the Bible says about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, our need, our salvation, how it is received, our life as Christians etc.).

Paul said it this way in **2 Thessalonians 2:15, “So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.”**

Being determined to not let anything move us from teachings of the faith is so important, because Jesus warned in Matthew 24, that before His return there will be bunch of false teachers, false prophets and false Christs set out to deceive us (see Matt. 24:4, 5, 11, 24).

Jesus wants to find us standing firm in the faith when He comes to get us.

Standing Firm in Our Freedom:

Galatians 5:1, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

When Paul wrote this, he was concerned that the Christians in Galatia were allowing religiously legalistic people to enslave them to all kinds of unnecessary self-relying demands, rituals and requirements, rather than on simple faith in Jesus.

But the principle of this verse also would apply to anything that could encroach on the freedom

we have in Jesus. Christ has come to set us free from things like besetting sins, addictions, stinking thinking, worldly entrapments and dead religious works. To stand firm in our freedom in Christ is to stand opposed to anything that would keep us from fully living for Jesus.

Anything that would rob us from the freedom we have in Christ and enslave us away from the good that our Father God has for us, is from the enemy of our souls, Satan. This is why we are told to stand firm when coming against his evil attacks in Ephesians 6:13-18.

Jesus wants to find us standing firm in our freedom when He comes to get us.

Standing Firm in Our Unity

Philippians 1:27, “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.”

Our unity in Christ with each other as brothers and sisters is extremely important to the Lord.

The Bible tells us that our unity with each other is good and pleasing in God’s sight (see Psalms 133:1). It is one of the ways we witness for Jesus to our world (see John 17:23). And it is how we ensure the Holy Spirit continued anointing and moving in our midst (see Ephesians 4:3-6).

Jesus wants our unity not uniformity. He wants us all together to be excited about Him, devoted to Him, and living for Him. But He wants us to do it each in our own unique ways as we keep encouraging each other and in love keep helping each other when we mess up (see Ephesians 4:2).

Jesus wants to find us standing firm in our unity with one another when He comes to get us.

How Do We Do It?

Knowing that Jesus wants to find us standing firm in the Faith, standing firm in our freedom and standing firm in our unity when He returns, we need to know exactly how do we stand firm in these ways?

We get our answer from **Romans 14:4, “Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make Him stand.”**

Notice it is the Lord Himself that is able to make us stand. The good news is that Jesus loves us, He wants us to stand, so He is going to help us every step of the way to keep standing firm.

Since Jesus is the one who makes us to stand firm, we must then be intentional to daily live in total reliance on Him, to daily live in total trust in Him, to daily live in total submission to Him and to daily live in total humbleness before Him. Jesus works best with such dispositions!