

The Day God Came Back

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#2 Tribute to Chuck Smith - this Sun, 5pm live simulcast in sanct.
- B. Slide#3 Congrats to Tori Kelly - her new release/album is #3 on itunes.
- C. Slide#4 Greg & Julie - Thailand/Burma.
- D. Prayer: *Lord, we want to go off-road w/our faith.* Focus on 2nd coming, not 2nd guessing.

II. **Intro:**

- A. Slide#5 Title: *The Day God Came Back*
- B. Same subject (*parousia/coming of the Lord*) but a different perspective. [bad chapter break]
- C. Slide#6,7 Everybody wants a **date** to circle on their calendar.
 - 1. Maybe it's best upon 1st waking up in the morning, to walk to your wall calendar & circle that days date, & live your day in the light of this possibility.
- D. The disciples wanted **a time** - Acts 1:6,7 *Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? And He said to them, It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.*
 - 1. So, if **Jesus** couldn't give them any more light on the situation, **Paul** surely couldn't.
- E. 2 wrong attitudes towards *The Coming Day of the Lord*.
 - 1. A feverish expectation (4:11)
 - a) Which leads to fanaticism. *They confuse the truth w/fantastic creations of fancy.*
 - 2. A cold indifference & careless neglect (tonights topic 5:1-11)
 - a) Which encourages a life of worldly & sensual indulgence.
- F. Paul will appeal to what they **already know**. (2)
- G. Slide#8 Outline: *Day of the Lord; Sons of the Day; Living For Today.*

III. Slide#9 **DAY OF THE LORD (1-3)**

- A. (2) *The Day of the Lord* – The Day God Came back
 - 1. Not a 24 hour **day**. [1007 years]
- B. *The Day of the Lord* received much discussion in the O.T. (often called *that day*)
 - 1. To the Jew time was divided into 2 ages: [1] This present age which was incurably bad. [2] The age to come, the golden age.
 - 2. **In between** there was *the day of the Lord* which would be a **terrible day**.
 - 3. It was the destroying of one world & the making of another.
- C. Slide#10a,b It is both a **day of Judgment** & a **day of Blessing**.

1. **Judgement** – on the world for sin & rebellion (during the trib)
 2. **Blessing** – on earth while they enjoy the personal reign of Christ (during the millennium)
- D. Here Paul **doesn't** discuss **the whole** day of the Lord **but** its **coming** (or, when it comes).
- E. **Slide#10c Characteristics of that Day**
- F. **Slide#11 A Thief in the night** – You've seen the Stealth Bombers flying over.
1. Their design of course allows them to approach by **stealth**.
 2. Quickly & unexpectedly they come...with out any warning. **It flies in at low altitude & has a unique body design in which radar cannot pick up.**
 3. Recently **Syria** knew **the time & season** of its coming was **near** [Praise God was avoided]
- G. **Slide#12,13 Also**, in Mt.24:43 **But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.**
- H. Rev.3:3 to the church of Philadelphia, **Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.**
- I. **Slide#14 (3) Peace & Safety** – It will come when life is moving along as **normal**.
1. Jesus used this same illustration in Lk.17:26-30. Life going on as normal: eating, drinking, & being married. **Before Ruin...is Rapture.** Noah/Lot.
 2. **The lost world will get caught in a time when they feel secure.**
- J. **Slide#15 Sudden Destruction** –
1. Joel 1:15 said **Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty. (2:11b) For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?**
 2. Isaiah 13:6 said, **Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. (13:9) Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath & fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.**
- K. **Not Escape** – Sobering
1. **Slide#16,17 Likened unto a pregnant women w/labor pains.**
 - a) **Kelly w/Zach** [stud, no shot for pain. But right before it was over **"I'm out of here!"**] No, at that point there was **NO ESCAPE!**
 - b) **And so with those who had not made a decision come Rapture time.**

IV. **Slide#18 SONS OF THE DAY (4,5)**

- A. **Slide#19** (4) **But you** – Did you think your grammar school English teacher was telling the truth when she/he said “**Pronouns are important to learn?**” **Well, Pronouns are the key here.**
1. **Us & them!**
 2. Paul never conceived of the church remaining on earth during the time of wrath.
- B. It will be **sudden**, **but** we don’t need to be caught **unaware**.
- C. (5) **Day/Night & Dark/Light** - Col.1:13 **He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.**

V. **Slide#20 LIVING FOR TODAY (6-11)**

- A. Here’s some *down to earth* advice on **how to live** in this present day.
- B. **WATCH & BE SOBER** (6-10)
- C. **Slide#21** **Let us not Sleep as others do** – good word for this evening :)
 1. **Side note...**This is a different word for **Sleep** than ch.4.
 2. It means **don’t have a careless indifference**.
 - a) Paul Promotes Christian Wakefulness.
 - b) Drowsy Christians are Drowning Christians.
- D. John Bunyan, in Pilgrims Progress, tells of Christian & Hopeful journeying to the Celestial city. He said, “*To prevent **drowsiness in this place, let us fall into good discourse.***”
 1. **Slide#22** Christians who isolate themselves & walk alone, are very liable to grow drowsy. **It’s team work...it’s growing & living life together.**
 - a) Oh, it can be done but it is a rarity to go it alone.
 2. Hold Christian company. And, you will be kept **wakeful** by it; **& be refreshed; & be encouraged** to make quicker progress on the road to heaven.
 - a) Keep your conversations on Jesus.
- E. **Watching** – It is the *opposite of indifference*. It involves alertness.
 1. The **Lion** of persecution might not be a threat to us, **but** we are being hugged by the **Slide#23 Bear** of this world. [we are often comfortable in his *warm, furry arms*, **but** he’s slowly squeezing **&** the church doesn’t feel it]
 2. Rom.13:11 **And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.**
 3. **Slide#24** ***Watching** is more **mental**, **sober** is more **moral**.
- F. **Sober** – **No** drunkenness, **no** self-indulgence, **and** emphasizes the need for **stability & balance** in the view of the Lord’s return.

1. **Take life seriously.** Reach out to people, love them, help them, offer salvation to em.
 2. **So be Alert & be stable.** *Live your life in the light of this truth.*
- G. **Slide#25 (9) See 1:10.** Also, Rev.3:10 **Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**
- H. **Appoint** – to place, to destine [LKGNT]. Not as strong as *predestinate*, **but** it clearly rests our salvation on the *Divine initiative*.
1. **Slide#26** Right now you have an **appointment**, either **to wrath** or **to salvation**.
 2. **Believers Listen up.** We can rest in our *hope of salvation*...because it is **appointed**.
 3. **Unbelievers listen up.** No worries, He'll let you *stay your course* :(
 - a) **Wrath** is the anguish of tribulation the day it begins;
Salvation is escaping this and living with Him.
 4. **Slide#27 To believers:** Don't be *indifferent* because **tomorrow** is **secure**.
 5. **To unbelievers:** Don't be *fooled* because **today** seems **calm**.
- I. (10) Paul keeps *the cross* central in his gospel...*who died for us*.
- J. **We should live together w/Him** (see 4:17b)
- K. **COMFORT & EDIFY** (11)
- L. Again these are to be words of **Comfort**.
1. **Slide#28a,b Comfort** - encourage.
 2. **Edify** - build one another up.
 - a) **Slide#29,30** *He climbs higher who helps another up.*
 3. So, **wait patiently, wakefully, watchfully, soberly, w/faith, hope & love, & comfort and edify one another.**
- M. **End:**
- N. Joel 3:14 **Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision/determined doom! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision/or, decision valley.**
- O. The early church lived in this **dynamic tension** regarding Christ's return. **They awakened each day with dual thrills** in their hearts: *Jesus will probably come today, and if He doesn't, the gospel will be further advanced by nightfall than it is now.*
- P. Rom.13:11-14 **And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in**

strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Q. Walk...*circumspectly, consistently, contentedly, carefully, compassionately, congregationally.*