

# Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

## PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Bulletin Articles from May 22, 2011

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### Scripture of the Week



#### 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

*“Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.”*

At the end of 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, the Apostle Paul wrote of the certainty of the Second Coming of Christ Jesus. He wrote that the Lord Himself will descend with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God. When He does so, the dead in Christ will arise from their graves and be caught up in the air with Jesus and the Christians who are alive at His coming. The return of Jesus will be a loud and spectacular event like no other, to say the very least. But although God has told us of the certainty of Christ’s return, He has not told us when that day will come. When Jesus comes back to Judge the living and the dead, He will do so as a “thief in the night”. A thief doesn't an-

nounce his coming, but typically does his dirty work under the cloak of darkness, when most everyone else is asleep and unaware and vulnerable. Likewise, Jesus will return at a time when people least expect it. There have been hundreds of predictions of the date and time of Christ’s return based on people’s misunderstanding of Bible prophecies, and all of them have been wrong. The key to being prepared for that great day is to just live your life as if it can happen at any time. For those who are prepared it will be a wonderful and glorious day. For the unprepared, Christ’s return will be sudden and devastating and there will be no escaping the pain. Make your preparations now for His return!

### The Day of the Lord

God uses the expression “The Day of the Lord” in at least a couple of different ways in the Bible, with reference to His judgment of the lives of human beings. It can refer to the more immediate judgment He visits upon people as punishment for disobedience and wicked behavior. In Ezekiel chapter 30 the expression was used in just that way, when the prophet wrote of the impending destruction of Egypt and her allies at the hands of the Babylonian armies. But the Bible also uses this phrase to refer to the Final Judgment, when Jesus will return to Judge all people who have ever lived, and appoint every person to their eternal dwelling place. This is obvi-

ously the sense of the phrase as used in 1 Thessalonians 5:2. That same meaning was used by Peter when he wrote in 2 Peter 3:10, *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.”* When Christ returns on that great and awesome day, it will be the moment of His final reckoning with sinful mankind on earth. His coming will be swift, and powerful and painful for the unsuspecting and unprepared. In that day, *“the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to*

*those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus”* (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8). Do you know God? Are you obeying the Gospel? There is no other way to be prepared for the Lord’s return than to study the Bible frequently, and come to know and have a relationship with Him by learning and obeying His will for you. Have you been baptized to have your sins forgiven and to be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21)? Are you living a righteous and holy life that pleases God? *“Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness...”* (2 Peter 3:11).

**Please Come Visit Us At...**

**Prairie Village Church of Christ**

**4616 Valley Station Rd., Louisville, KY 40272**

**Preacher – Louie Taylor**

**Phone Number – 502.807.3211**

**www.pvchurchofchrist.com**

**Times of Services**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30**

**Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:30**

**Sunday Evening Worship Service.....6:30**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:30**



**Where Do You Dwell?**

There are many different things which happen to us in our lives that can bring on fear and worry. There also seems to be just as many different ways to medicate our anxieties as there are root causes for them. People react in different ways to life's troubles. Many people try to alleviate their worries with alcohol, food, sleep, work or bad relationships. Others make use of the variety of pharmaceutical treatments available, and there are certainly legitimate health issues that warrant the use of these medications. But in Philippians 4:4-9, God gives us the formula for curing all of our anxieties. It is really a method that is as simple in it's brilliance and effectiveness as it is difficult in its execution and continuation. In step one of God's method, He tells

us to make our prayers and supplications known to Him with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6). 1 Peter 5:7 tells us that when we pray in this way, God wants us to cast all our anxieties upon Him because He cares for us. It doesn't do us a bit of good to worry about our problems, but it does a world of good to pray about them and then give them to God. If we will pray to Him often with a heart full of thankfulness, and let Him have the worries that we can't handle, the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension will guard our hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). Of course, we have to be in Christ Jesus for any of God's methods to work effectively. In step two, God tells us we must change our mindset (Philippians 4:8). He tells us there to focus on

positive things. If we're always dwelling on negative things, we will always be negative, unhappy, depressed people. But God tells us to dwell on truthful, honorable, right, pure, lovely, excellent things. If we can change our mental patterns and form good, healthy thought habits, the writer promises us that the God of peace will be with us (Philippians 4:9). Not only will the peace of God be ours, the God of peace will be with us also. The reason for this is that when we're dwelling on the good, righteous and worthy things of life, we are living where the God of peace abides. Our God is true, right, pure and holy. If we focus on these things, we'll be thinking the way He thinks and dwelling where He dwells. In short, we'll be abiding in Him and with Him.

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**GOSPEL MEETING AUGUST 15-17 WITH GERRY SANDUSKY — Please mark your calendars and make early plans to attend every day of this short, three day meeting with Gerry Sandusky of Madison Indiana. Brother Gerry has entitled this series of studies, "Standing at the Door of the Day of Eternity". Each lesson will be taken from the New Testament book of 1 Thessalonians, and the goal of this meeting will be to motivate each one of us to live every day of our lives on planet earth as if it might be our last.**