

IMPORTANCE OF CHRIST' RETURN & REUNION:

REUNION WITH CHRIST WHEN HE RETURNS:

DO WE DESIRE TO BE UNITED WITH CHRIST?

Phil 1:21-26 – to be with Christ

21 For me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose. 23 I am pressured by both. I have the desire to depart and be with Christ —which is far better — 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your advancement and joy in the faith, 26 so that, because of me, your confidence may grow in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Upon our death what does Jesus assure us of?

Luke 23:43 43 And He said to him, " I assure you: Today you will be with Me in paradise." (A)

1. Do you believe Jesus is coming back?
2. Why will He come back?
3. Who is He coming back for?
4. Are you prepared?

Matt. 25:1-13 – reunion with Christ is compared to a Banquet we must be ready for.

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like 10 virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were sensible. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they didn't take oil with them. 4 But the sensible ones took oil in their flasks with their lamps. 5 Since the groom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 "In the middle of the night there was a shout: 'Here's the groom! Come out to meet him.' 7 "Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 But the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.'

9 "The sensible ones answered, 'No, there won't be enough for us and for you. Go instead to those who sell, and buy oil for yourselves.' 10 "When they had gone to buy some, the groom arrived. Then those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 "Later the rest of the virgins also came and said, 'Master, master, open up for us!' 12 "But he replied, ' I assure you: I do not know you!' 13 "Therefore be alert, because you don't know either the day or the hour.

5. How does it make you feel to know when Jesus comes back He will bring all the saints that have gone before us with Him?
6. What hope do we have in death?
7. How does it make you feel to know that earthly marriages won't be the same in Heaven?

Matt. 22:23-32

23 The same day some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came up to Him and questioned Him: 24 "Teacher, Moses said, if a man dies, having no children, his brother is to marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first got married and died. Having no offspring, he left his wife to his brother. 26 The same happened to the second also, and the third, and so to all seven. 27 Then last of all the woman died. 28 Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven? For they all had married her." 29 Jesus answered them, "You are deceived, because you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. 31 Now concerning the resurrection of the dead, haven't you read what was spoken to you by God: 32 I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob ? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

33 And when the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

8. How do you feel knowing you will see loved ones again?
9. How should the assurance of eternity change the way we grieve?

Ps. 16:9-11 – Assurance of God's presence with us.

here fore my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also rests securely. 10 For You will not abandon me to Sheol; You will not allow Your Faithful One to see the Pit. 11 You reveal the path of life to me; in Your presence is abundant joy; in Your right hand are eternal pleasures.

Matt 19:29; Our reunion with Christ is greater than our earthly homes.

29 And everyone who has left houses, brothers or sisters, father or mother, children, or fields because of My name will receive 100 times more and will inherit eternal life.

Luke 16:19-31; Reality is that we will not all make the reunion

19 "There was a rich man who would dress in purple and fine linen, feasting lavishly every day. 20 But a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, was left at his gate. 21 He longed to be filled with what fell from the rich man's table, but instead the dogs would come and lick his sores. 22 One day the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off, with Lazarus at his side. 24 'Father Abraham!' he called out, 'Have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this flame!'

25 " 'Son,' Abraham said, 'remember that during your life you received your good things, just as Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here, while you are in agony. 26 Besides all this, a great chasm has been fixed between us and you, so that those who want to pass over from here to you cannot; neither can those from there cross over to us.'

27 " 'Father,' he said, 'then I beg you to send him to my father's house— 28 because I have five brothers—to warn them, so they won't also come to this place of torment.'

29 "But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.'

30 " 'No, father Abraham,' he said. 'But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31 "But he told him, 'If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

How can you be ready?

Which set of virgins are you?

How do we put the oil in our lamps?

Matt 24:36-44 No One Knows the Day or Hour or the Reunion:

36 "Now concerning that day and hour no one knows—neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son — except the Father only.³⁷ As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. 38 For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark. 39 They didn't know until the flood came and swept them all away. So this is the way the coming of the Son of Man will be: 40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore be alert, since you don't know what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this: If the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he would have stayed alert and not let his house be broken into. 44 This is why you also must be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

What's the greatest secret on earth? Why?

How should the unknown effect our lives?

Can we have confidence in waiting for Christ to return?

How do we wait for Christ?

Should we think about our reunion with Christ and Heaven?

Col. 3:1-2 "So if you have been raised with the Messiah, seek what is above, where the Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth."