

The Real Faith, Part 6

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, October 17, 2021

Text: 2 Tim. 3:15-16

Opening Summary

We are very close to the visitation of the Lord. In this lesson you will learn what to do to prepare for His visitation. You must act on the Scripture and not depart from it. You must keep your eye on the Scripture and welcome its correction, without bitterness. Then draw closer to God by removing all hindrances and following the course He set for you. As you draw close to Him, let the joy of the Lord be your strength. Then laugh at the devil because victory is yours!

- I. 2 Tim. 3:15-17 In the Scripture is wisdom by our trust, confidence and belief in Christ Jesus.
 - A. Scripture (Gk. graphe) means holy writ.
 - B. Inspiration (Gk. theopneustos) divinely breathed.
 - C. Profitable (Gk. ophelimos) advantageous.
 - D. Doctrine (Gk. didaskalia) instructions, learning, teaching.
 - E. Reproof (Gk. elegchos) proof, conviction, evidence.
 - F. Correction (Gk. epanorthosis) straightening up again.
 - G. Instruction (Gk. paideia) education, training, correction, chastisement.
 - H. Complete (perfect) and thoroughly furnished (fully equipped).
- II. The Word (logos) is given by written form (reading). A person who doesn't read daily deprives themselves of God's wisdom. The O.T. Saints, in Heb. 11, received a "rhema" spoken word. The person who doesn't pray and listen much deprives themselves of God's wisdom.
- III. 2 Pet. 1:19-21: Study until you see it.
 - A. The scripture isn't just for certain people. It's for all who spend time with it.
 - B. The Holy Ghost came upon holy men who spoke. Then they wrote it down. It is the Bible we use today.
- IV. God delivers the rhema (the spoken Word) in a number of ways.
 - A. Heb. 2:1-3: Angels deliver the spoken Word.
 - B. Eph. 4:11-15: Ministers deliver the spoken Word.
 - C. Acts 10:19: The Holy Ghost delivers the Word.
 - D. John 3:16: God wants you to have everlasting life through acting on the Word.
 - E. John 16:13: The Holy Ghost agrees with Jesus and the written Word.
 - F. Col. 3:15: Follow the peace of God in your spirit.
 - G. God speaks to you as you read the Word.
 - H. They all produce faith—trust, confidence and belief in God (Rom 10:17).
- V. What is sin? Sin is any departure from the teaching of the scripture, which is God's thoughts, methods, ways, and creations.
 - A. Life should be lived God's way, not according to society norms (Rom. 6:23).
 - B. Pro. 12:15: Beware of saying "I thought."
 - C. Pro. 14:12: He repeats this in Pro. 16:25. God wants to be sure you get it.

- D. Not listening to God has ramifications at a particular time.
- E. Isa. 10:3: This brings judgement in the “time of visitation.”
- F. There is a time when mercy runs out.
- G. Judgment can be positive or negative; it’s when one is rendered guilty or innocent.
- H. Be prepared for your time of visitation.

VI. Jer. 8:12 speaks about a *time* of visitation.

- A. During your day or year of visitation, you will have to give an account.
 - 1. *Visitation* (Heb.: p@quddah) means *account, oversight, reckoning*.
 - 2. *Visitation* (Gk.: episcopo) means *inspection*.
- B. Luke 19:44: They didn’t recognize their day of visitation and crucified the Messiah.
- C. The Bible talks about a *year* of visitation (Luke 21:6). **God always warns: He’s trying to tell you how close we are to His visitation.** Everything in eternity is today.
- D. God is longsuffering and He has loads of mercy.
- E. During the time, we should wake up and study the Word and do what it says.
- F. He’s been warning now with more frequency and fervor about the move of God, the move of the enemy, and the great event, the catching away for those who please God.
- G. The Scripture is the standard of everything.

VII. Living by faith is keeping an eye on God’s Word and obeying it (Heb. 10:35, 38).

- A. Heb. 12:5: Exhortation is verbal speech (2 Ti. 3:15-16).
- B. The chastening of the Lord is the Word.
- C. Jeremiah told the people what God said. They would throw him into prison, decided to execute him, because they focused on the messenger. Some of the kings thought if they shut up the messenger, his words can’t come to pass. But they came to pass anyway.
- D. Heb. 12:5: *Speaketh* (Gk.dialegomai) means *to say thoroughly, preach unto, reason with* (Isa. 1:18).

VIII. Heb. 12:5-6: God chastens with His Word. God doesn’t put sickness on you to teach you. That’s evil (Jam. 1:13-14; Gal. 3:13-14).

- A. Heb. 12:7-8: God straightens us all up from time to time.
 - 1. The Bible used the term “bastard.” It means illegitimate.
 - 2. God is saying you are not one of His when you go the opposite of His will.
- B. Heb. 12:9: God is the Father of spirits, not black, white, yellow or red folks.
- C. Heb. 12:10: The purpose of His chastening is to give us an advantage.
- D. Heb. 12:11: Exercised Gk. trained by preaching, teaching, meditation and practice.
- E. Heb. 12:12: Lift up your hands because He doesn’t want you lost. Thank Him.
- F. Heb. 12:13: Lame – cripple or offended. You let it. Decide you won’t be offended.
- G. Heb. 12:14: The flesh always wants to defend. Go the way of peace.
- H. Heb. 12:15: Jesus was diligent; *fail* means *fall from* (Heb. 12:2).
 - 1. Diligently look at Jesus; Don’t look at him, her, them or anything else (Heb. 12:2).
 - 2. The devil can’t hit you when you’re in the love of God.
 - 3. You don’t want to be a saint being used of the devil.
 - 4. James 1:2-4: Rejoice when temptations come. Then blessings will come.

IX. Heb. 12:15-17: When bitterness rises in you, people are contaminated because you spread it.

- A. Gen. 25:33: Esau sold his birthright for a piece of bread (Gen. 25:27-34).
- B. He sold out his spiritual inheritance for temporary things that don’t last.
- C. The blessing then came through Jacob and his lineage all the way to Jesus.
- D. What are you willing to trade for your inheritance?

- X. Heb. 12:18-24: Believers are enrolled in heaven. God is the judge of all.
- A. Heb. 12:25: Do not refuse God when He's speaking.
 - B. He's telling you to get your act together and get ready.
 - C. Get closer to Him. Get back in fellowship with Him now.
 - D. Find your place with God and do His will in a hurry.
- XI. Heb. 12:1: Lay aside every weight – hinderance – it may not be sin, but it's a hindrance.
- A. Run the race "set" before you.
 - B. God "set" His will for your life before you were born.
 - C. When I was eight years old, I knew that I would be a preacher. Many years later after expanding our ministry to Atlanta, GA, there was a woman on my staff there who went to elementary school with me. She showed me a diary she kept when she was a child. After she and I had a conversation (as children), she wrote, "Keith Butler said he's going to pastor a big church in Detroit." I knew it way back then. God had a course that was "set" for me, even though at the time, I didn't want to do it. That course is in your child. If you listen to them, it will come out.
- XII. Heb. 12:2: Jesus begins your faith and finishes.
- A. God will give you a word – begins your journey and he tells you when it's complete.
 - B. Joy was also "set" before him.
 - C. Jesus took some licks and refused to *let* it dominate Him.
 - D. He decided to be glad, always. He prayed in the garden until joy came.
 - E. You must have the joy of the Lord (Neh. 8:10). That is your strength.
 - F. When you laugh, strength comes to your body, your mind, your soul.
 - G. Laugh at the devil.

Closing Summary

We are very close to the visitation of the Lord. Now that you know what to do to prepare for His visitation, decide to act on the Scripture and not depart from it. Keep your eye on the Word and welcome its correction, without bitterness. Then draw closer to God by removing all hindrances and following the course He set for you. As you draw close to Him, let the joy of the Lord be your strength. Then laugh at the devil because victory is yours!