

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 7.09.25

PREACHER: PS NATHAN BEAN

Wholly Ready

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

A disciple lives in reverent anticipation of Christ's return, remaining spiritually awake and set apart for God's purpose in the world.

OVERVIEW

It's easy to get distracted by headlines, fears, or predictions about the end times. But Scripture calls us to live with ready hearts, not anxious minds. Jesus is coming back. We don't know when, and we won't ever know until he comes. Therefore, what matters is that we live now as people who belong to Him—set apart (holy), transformed, and wide awake in love for each other. Holiness isn't perfection, it's purpose. Readiness isn't fear, but expectancy.

ACTION

Step 1: What would change in your day-to-day life if you lived with real anticipation of Christ's return?

Step 2: Are there areas of your heart you've been delaying working on—thinking there's still time?

Step 3: What does holiness mean to you, and how might your view shift if it's more about "belonging" than "behaving"?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:13–21

The world is loud with predictions. Another tech revolution. Another scandal. Another reason to worry. But when Scripture speaks of Christ's return, it isn't to provoke fear or obsession—it's to wake us up to what really matters. It invites us not into panic, but into preparation.

In the letter of 1 Peter, the author writes to a scattered church, people who feel the ache of being on the “outside” of their surrounding culture; people persecuted and rejected. He tells them to “gird up the loins of their mind”, an old image of tucking your robe into your belt, ready to run. In today's terms, he's saying: stay spiritually alert. Be dressed and ready. Take an athletic stance. Don't drift through life waiting to react. Live like someone who could be called at any moment.

But this readiness isn't rooted in the world's understanding of fear. Peter's language is tender, reminding us that we are God's children. He speaks of reverent fear, not a fear that paralyses, but the kind that awakens us to awe and love for our Father. Like a groom waiting at the altar for his bride, this posture of readiness and expectation is an eager anticipation for the good we know is just around the corner.

This is what holiness is really about. Not becoming morally flawless (as if that was even possible), but fully giving ourselves over to the One we belong to. “Holiness” in the temple wasn't about the object; it was about the one who had set it apart. Even bowls and tables were holy—not because they were perfect, but because they were selected for sacred use. Holiness is less about spotless records and more about surrendered hearts. In Christ, we have been made holy. Coming into contact with and submitting to this reality is what creates our desire to live differently in the world.

So we live differently. Not by retreating from the world or mimicking it, but by walking through it with a different set of values. Different rhythms. A different hope. We are foreigners here; “sojourners”. The Church is simply those who have come to see that in and through Christ, we have been set apart for sacred work and a sacred life together. And together, we love differently, spend differently, forgive differently. And we wait. Not with anxiety, but with joy. Because our King is coming, and when He does, everything wrong will be set right.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

- 1) How do you personally wrestle with the idea of Christ's return—fear, excitement, avoidance?
- 2) What practices help you stay spiritually “awake” in a distracted world?
- 3) How can your group better support one another in living as sojourners—distinct but engaged?

PRAYER

Jesus,
Awaken our hearts. Not with fear, but with love. Teach us to live like people who belong to You—holy, ready, and full of hope. Shape us into a Church that walks in reverent joy, set apart and set alight for Your glory.
Amen.