

Speaker : **Prince Guneratnam**  
Title : **Be Occupied Till Jesus Comes**  
Text : **Luke 19:11-15**

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## INTRODUCTION

Jesus in teaching about His Return tells the “Parable of the Talents” and tells what we need to do after His resurrection and ascension.

(LUKE 19:11-15 KJV)

11And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. 12He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. 14But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. 15And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

( LUKE 19:13)

“And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.”

- What does it mean “occupy till I come” (KJV) or “engage in business” (ESV)
- The Second Coming of Jesus is not a theory but a truth to be lived.
  - We are to be ready for His Return.
  - The Second Coming of Jesus is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament.
    - It is mentioned 8 times more than His first coming.
  - This shows the seriousness and the importance that we understand and be prepared for His Return.

## WHAT SHOULD BE OUR BUSINESS OR OCCUPATION BEFORE JESUS RETURNS?

- Paul outlines some very clear practices that we should be doing till Jesus comes

(1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 NKJV)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: **Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2. We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 **remembering without ceasing your WORK OF FAITH, LABOR OF LOVE, and PATIENCE OF HOPE in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,** 4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. 6 **And you became FOLLOWERS OF US AND OF THE LORD, having received the word in much AFFLICTION, with JOY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,** 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. **Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.** 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you **turned to God from idols** to serve the living and true God, and **to wait for His Son from heaven,** whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

## WE SHOULD OCCUPY OURSELVES WITH THE WORK OF FAITH (V.3)

- “Remembering Without Ceasing Your Work Of Faith” (V. 3)
  - We are not saved by works and faith, but saved by faith that works.

(James 2:18,21-23)

18 Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.

- Therefore, obedience to the will of God is a work of faith.
- God’s work requires faith.
- God requires obedience - this is the business we must be involved.

(1 Samuel 15:22)

“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, And to heed than the fat of rams.

- Obedience separates us from the rest.

(Deuteronomy 28:1, 10 & 14)

1“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.10 Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

(1 Thessalonians 1:6-10)

6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- They were followers of the Lord (Christians) – V. 6-7
- They received and spread the word (sounded forth the Word) – V. 8
- They turned to God from idols - V.9
- They lived in anticipation of the Lord’s return - V.10

- The work of God has a price  
“Remembering Without Ceasing Your Labor Of Love” (V. 3)

- There is a difference between slaves, employees and those who serve the Lord.
- Slaves work because they have to
- Employees work because they need to
- Christians work because they love to

(2 Corinthians 5:14)

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;”

- The work of God needs patience  
“Remembering Without Ceasing Your Patience Of Hope In Our Lord Jesus Christ” (V. 3)

- Patience in the Lord will not disappoint you. Wait for the will of God to come to pass.

(Habbakuk 2:3)

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”

(Psalms 40:1-3)

1. I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. 2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. 3 He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD.

### **WE MUST BE STEADFAST (V. 6)**

- “And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit” ... “They received the word in much affliction”
  - Obeying God’s Word has challenges.
  - Serving together with the Holy Spirit brings joy in the midst of suffering.
  - The joy is your strength.
  - Example: Paul and Silas sang in prison in spite of being beaten.

- We must be steadfast:

- In being a witness

(1 Thessalonians 1:7-8)

7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

- In turning to God from idols and not from God to idols

(1 Thessalonians 1:9)

“For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God”

- Today, idols are more than statues – they can be anything that takes first place or priority in life other than God

(Matthew 6:31-34)

31 “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

## CONCLUSION

- THE THESSALONIANS CHRISTIANS WERE BUSY AND WERE OCCUPIED

- Serving the Lord by faith that works
- Being steadfast in suffering because they were sure of the Gospel

(1 Thessalonians 1:5)

“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.”

- Therefore, the Second Coming of the Lord was not a theory but a truth to live by.

(1 Thessalonians 1:10)

“and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

## TO HAVE THIS HOPE OF HIS RETURN, WE MUST HAVE SALVATION

(1 Thessalonians 1:1) Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

- The Source Of Salvation Is Grace

- It can be defined in the form of an acrostic:

**G**od’s

**R**iches

**A**t

**C**hrist’s

**E**xpense

- Grace is not by merits of men or the richness of mankind but in the mercy of God.

- The Satisfaction Of Salvation Is Peace
  - Paul says, “Grace and Peace”
  - You can’t have peace without grace.
  - Peace always follows grace.
  - The power of God works where there is the peace of God.
  - The peace of God makes it possible for God’s power to confront the problems.
  
- The Strength Of Salvation Is Our Position
  - We have a new position that provides us the privileges and the provision that is available to us as children of God.
  - We became heirs and joint heirs with Christ.
  - Therefore, let us work the works of Christ.
  - We can do greater works because of Christ.

(John 14:12)

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.