

## The Last Invitation

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

### ➤ Intro:

- **1 Th. 5:1-4** Lord will come as a thief in the night – **unexpected, unannounced**

- **inv.:** in case there's someone present who's not right with God, want to give them a chance to render obedience, Lord may come before the sermon is over

- **1<sup>st</sup> verse invitation song** – There's A Great Day Coming (#283)

- **that was the last invitation**

- **remainder lesson pretend** the Lord's comes right now

- **what will happen** in the next few minutes – **what will you experience**

- **note:** absolute order of these things not exact, some may be simultaneous

### ➤ Lord returns – today

- **1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Th. 4:15-16** trumpet, shout of archangel, Lord descends from heaven, changed

### ➤ - Acts 1:11 Lord descend, just as He ascended

- **Heb. 9:28** Jesus appear a second time for salvation, without reference to sin

- **imagine what it will be like on that day**

- sound of the trumpet and the archangel

- sounds of the people who are happy, and people who are sad

- **imagine what you'll feel:**

- the adrenalin rush

- your mind racing wondering at what exact moment you'll see Jesus

- wondering what He'll look like with all the glory of His angels

### ➤ One of two things will happen to people living on the earth. . . . – today

- **1 Th. 4:16-17** righteous rise, meet Lord in the air, united with all the righteous

- **2 Th. 1:10** glorify Jesus, marvel at Him because believed

- **1 Cor. 15; 2 Cor. 5** last enemy destroyed (death), receive an immortal body, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom

### ➤ - 2 Th. 1:7b-9 unrighteous punished, flaming fire, not know God or obey gospel, eternal destruction

- **Heb. 10:31** terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God

- **Heb. 12:29** God is a consuming fire

- **pretend today is the day of Jesus' return:**

- which group will you be in – what will you be doing – how will you feel

- will you rejoice for the choices you've made – will you be sad

- **World destroyed** – today
  - **2 Pet. 3:10, 12b** world destroyed, dissolved with intense heat, burnt up
    - for unbelievers the thing they loved more than God will be destroyed, annihilated, put out of existence
  
- - **Jude 1:7** (cf. 2 Pet. 2:6)
  - just as Sodom and Gomorrah serve as examples of God's punishment, so the destruction of the whole earth will serve as example of punishment of eternal fire, which the ungodly will experience forever
  
- Will we see the destruction of the earth? – the universe?
  - will we care?
  - imagine the sights and sounds of the earth exploding, imploding, melting away
  
- **Satan thrown into the lake of fire** – today
  - **Rev. 20:10** Satan thrown into lake of fire
  
- **1 Cor. 15** when Jesus comes, last enemy destroyed, death – Satan has power over death
  - victory in heaven, final victory for our Lord – rejoicing of saints and angels
  
- **Judgment** – today
  - **Rev. 20:11-13** judgment, standing before throne, judged according to deeds recorded in books, book of life there with record of saints' names
    - **2 Cor. 5:10** appear before judgment seat of Christ, recompensed for deeds whether good and bad
    - imagine the moment you stand before Christ in judgment – thoughts, feelings
  
- - **1 Pet. 4:17** Christians judged first
  - **Rev. 7:14** standing before Christ in white robes, washed in blood of the Lamb
  - **Rev. 20:12** names written in the Lamb's book of life
  - imagine standing before Christ, debt of sin paid by the one judging you, redeemed by His blood
  
- - **1 Cor. 6:2-3a** after judged, faithful Christians judge world and angels
  - **Phil. 2:10-11** at name of Jesus every knee bow and tongue confess that He's Lord, to the glory of the Father
  - imagine judging these with Christ and all the saints – all the enemies of Christ and His church finally submitting to Christ
  
- **Everyone will go to one of two place, for eternity** – today
  - **Rev. 20:14-15** punishment, thrown into lake of fire – Satan already there (vs. 10)
    - **Matt. 7:13-14** the place most people will go
    - imagine
  
- - **Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5** reward, eternal life in heaven

- imagine

➤ **Invitation**

- if the Lord came back this very minute, your last chance to obey has past, what would you experience
  - welcomed by the Lord into heaven for eternity
  - cast into hell to live with the devil for eternity
  
- **inv.:** you're in luck, you're going to make it to one more invitation – do you need to respond
- **illus.:** day I obeyed gospel, Wayne Sullivan preached sermon like this, realized I was accountable and lost
- **1 Th. 5:1-4** Lord will come as a thief in the night – are you ready – there's a great day coming (#283)