Make Church a Part of Your Life WEEKLY SERMONETTE



By Jerry Cummings, Pastor of Living Hope Fellowship, Norton

Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

This scripture refers to people who "love His appearing." Of course His appearing refers to the return of Jesus to the earth. There was a day in Christian circles when people only focused on the future benefits of our faith while largely ignoring the present day promises of God. This resulted in a swing the other direction where the main focus has been on what God wants to do for us here and now. This includes things like healing, provision, healthy relationships, etc. These are important, and we do need to understand the Kingdom of God as it relates to today, as well as tomorrow.

But as a result in this shift, we as believers are often no longer a people who "love His appearing". Jesus' return is far down on our list of things anticipated. However, on the part of Jesus, the day of His return to earth is looked forward to with great anticipation. It is the day of His wedding, the day of the gladness of His heart, the day when His bride will be with Him beholding His glory. If we love Him, then we too will share this

mission, and so on.

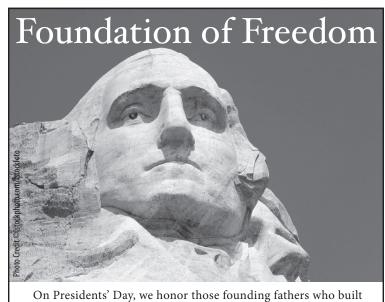
2 Timothy 4:8 says, "Fi- anticipation. Furthermore, only the depth of our experience in reward. For those who are in nally, there is laid up for me by looking forward to His return Christ here and now, it will be Christ, the scripture describes the crown of righteousness, can we have a right view of this very small compared to the unwhich the Lord, the righteous life as well as things like sin, restricted vision and encounter Judge, will give to me on that righteousness, suffering, our we will know then. Secondly, following His return will be the So what is there to look for-destruction of Satan, death, the ward to and love about His ap- curse and so on. Rev. 21:4b says, pearing? First of all, there will be "There shall be no more pain, for

the glorious experience of seeing the former things have passed Him in His Glory. No matter away." Thirdly, there is eternal

the following rewards: Joy, Intimacy with Christ, authority, reunion with loved ones. and a great everlasting inheritance as heirs of God.

But there is more. There is the resurrection of our bodies with all the advantages of our current bodies, but none of the limitations. Then there is the making right of everything that has been wrong, otherwise known as the judgment, restoration, and renewal. Beyond this will be the benevolent, righteous rule of Jesus, with injustice ended. There will also be full and final deliverance from evil. As the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

In conclusion, Let yourself anticipate His appearing. As you think about this life, think about the next. Ponder how He views the day of His appearing. As a parent how do you anticipate the time when children will open gifts you have paid for and prepared? Go ahead and anticipate what is reserved for that day. Let that day flavor your difficult times. Set your heart... no matter what it takes, I will endure to that day... Say, "Ilove the day of His appearing!'



the groundwork of our democracy. George Washington, our first President, gave us our foundation. The many Presidents who have followed him continue to strengthen that foundation.

Equally important, the Bible gives us our spiritual foundation; though our country grows and changes, God's Word remains the same. "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Cor 3:17). Worship this week and praise God for the foundation of freedom that we have been given.

	Weekly Scripture Reading						
	Luke	Luke	Luke	Luke	Luke	John	John
	14:25–15:32	15:11–32	17:1–19	18:15-34	18:35-19:10	13:1–20	13:21–35
	Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society © 2013, Keister-Williams Newspaper Services, P.O. Box 8187, Charlottesville, VA 22906, www.kwnews.com						

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