

How shall we then live? - radio

What to expect, what to guard against, how to live

The scripture for our sermon today is found in Matt. 24. This scripture is part of a single discourse the Lord Jesus Christ gave to His disciples. It spans chapters 24 and 25, and covers the history of this world from the cross to the end of time.

“1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matt. 24:1-14).

Our Lord tells His beloved disciples in these verses what to expect as they live their lives in service to Him. He puts them on their guard, warning them to watch against specific troubles. And He tells them how they are to live throughout time in light of these things that will most certainly come to pass (v35).

Jesus addresses His disciples as friends. He tells them what He will do before He does it (v25; Gen. 18:17). It is an intimate and very sobering discourse. In these two chapters and throughout the word of God, but especially in these 14 verses, we see something very important. We see what is important to our great God and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. What is most important to God throughout time is the salvation of His people from their sins, by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to His great glory. It is safe to say from scripture that the reason God created and upholds this world is to gather His people out of it, to wash them from their sins, to redeem them, to perfect them, to make them holy and without blame, and finally present them to Himself without fault in the presence of His glory with exceeding great joy, both His and theirs (Jude 1:24-25; John 17:1-5). This world and its history is but the scaffolding God put in place to build His Church. God's purpose for history is to glorify Himself in His Son through the redemption of His people. This is the reason the world was created. This is the reason the world continues. When Christ is done building His Church, then the end will come (v14). Then the scaffolding will be taken down. Then He will reveal His adopted, redeemed sons (Rom. 8:23). He will judge those who opposed Him and opposed His people. He will separate the sheep from the goats. He will receive the sheep into everlasting blessing. He will send the goats to everlasting shame and punishment (Matt. 25:46). Given the certainty and seriousness of these things, let us carefully consider the three things Our Lord and Savior told His disciples:

1. What they are to expect as they preach the Gospel and await His return;
2. What they are to cautiously watch and guard against while He is away;
3. How they are to live.

Five things should drive us knees before our Savior:

1. First, the road to destruction is broad (Matt. 7:13). Many go down that road. But the road to life is narrow. It has only one way of salvation: it is Christ. He is the only way to the Father (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Remember Gideon's army. In comparison to the numbers in false religion, there are few true believers. Jesus said, "*Many be called, but few chosen*" (Matt. 20:16). Only

believers in Christ endure to the end. According to Jesus, many are deceived (v4, 11). Many persecute the Lord's people. Many leave Christ and turn against His people in hatred (v9-10). The love of many grows cold. Therefore, we must ask tremblingly, "What hope do I have, who am insignificant, helpless and sinful?!!" As the disciples asked Jesus in the upper room, "Lord, it is I?!" And as Jeremiah said to the LORD, "*Be not a terror unto me: thou art my hope in the day of evil*" (Jer. 17:17). Our eyes must ever be on our almighty Savior. He alone makes the difference. Jesus saves. And He saves all by Himself! Peter denied Christ. But before his denial, Jesus told him, "*I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not*" (Luke 22:32). We will only endure if Christ prays for our faith. He must advocate for us. Let us therefore go to Him who saves helpless sinners! "*He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them*" (Heb. 7:25).

2. Second, we should be immeasurably thankful to God for His distinguishing, redeeming, preserving grace. In 2 Thess. 2:9, the apostle Paul said men are damned because they do not receive the love of the truth (2 Thess. 2:9). But on the other hand, Paul credited God alone with the salvation of His people. He said, "***But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ***" (2 Thess. 2:13-14). Thank God! He considers us in Christ alone. He saves us by Christ alone. He preserves us in Christ. The only difference between the sheep and the goats, between those who are deceived and those who are kept, between those who depart and those who endure, is the difference that God makes (1 Cor. 4:17)! The difference God makes is the difference of the eternal love of God the Father that chose His people in Christ before time began. It is the difference of the precious redeeming blood of God the Son in our nature, which He shed for His people on the cross. The difference God makes is the difference of God the Holy Spirit who by His almighty power and grace raises dead sinners to life to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. The difference God makes is the difference of His

omnipotent grip of preserving grace in Christ. **We persevere in faith only because God perseveres in grace.** We are saved because our God and Savior is willing and able and faithful to save us to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25; 10:23; 11:11; John 6:37-40; Jude 1:24-25). Christ's sheep shall never perish because He shall not fail to save all who were given to Him by His Father (John 6:37-40). He will not lose one of them (John 10:28-29). Therefore, if you and I, by God's grace, are looking to Christ alone, we must thank God!!

3. The third thing that ought to drive us to our knees before our Savior as we consider Matt. 24 is that we must hear and come to Christ as sinners.

Remember the parable of the sower? He sowed one kind of seed on four different grounds (Matt. 13:3-23). The Gospel is the seed. Whenever the Gospel is preached men have one of four different reactions. In the case of the stony-ground hearer, the Gospel did not take deep root. When persecutions came, that hearer left Christ. Similarly, the cares of this world choked the Gospel in the heart of the thorny-ground hearer. The Gospel only took deep root in the one who received it in an honest and good heart (Luke 8:15; 18:13). We must hear the Gospel as sinners! The Gospel of God's grace will only go deep into our heart if we hear it as guilty, helpless sinners and find Christ to be all of our salvation. Only when we have nothing will we find Christ to be all. Only when Christ is all will we abandon all to have Him. We will only abide in Him and find Him altogether lovely when we have nowhere else to go (John 6:68-69). It is God's work that produces this in the heart of sinners. Remember this principle when you read Matt. 24.

You and I will only endure to the end if we hear of Christ as a sinner (Ps. 25:11; Php. 3:3). Only when I have nothing do I look to Christ for everything. Someone once asked a preacher, "**Is Christ alone enough to save me?**" The preacher answered, "**He is, if He is all you have.**"

Therefore, "*let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need*" (Heb. 4:16).

4. The fourth thing to consider is that the trouble that comes on this world is the result of God's judicial judgment against men for their sin and unbelief, for their rejection of Christ and their hatred of His people. God is longsuffering with this world. Yet the world obstinately rejects His counsel.

Israel rejected the Gospel because they trusted their self-righteousness (Rom. 10:1-4). God warns men against this (Luke 18:9-14). Like Israel, God will judge us if we turn from His Son, trusting something of ourselves instead of or in addition to Christ. In Proverbs 1:24-27, the LORD says,

“Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; 25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; 27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you” (Prov. 1:24-27).

Warning and comfort in light of certain troubles

With these four things as introduction, let us consider seven things Jesus told His disciples to expect throughout time:

1. First, in (v5) Jesus said expect many Christ imposters, those who claim to be sent of God (Christ, apostles). It is not difficult to spot cult leaders throughout history who claim this. Jim Jones, David Koresh and many others have arisen in modern times. But Satan is much more subtle. He deceives the masses. How? He transforms himself into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). He comes as a teacher of God’s truth. And his servants transform themselves into the apostles of Christ. Jesus said many will follow such men and women. The common characteristic of Satan’s ministers is that they deny the truth of Christ’s person as God and man (1 John 4:1-5; 5:4-14; John 20:31; Php. 2:5-11). They deny that He is the one Mediator between God and men (1 Tim. 2:5). And they deny that He is the only and all-sufficient Savior of His people, who by Himself purged all of the sins of all for whom He died (Isa. 45:21-25; Heb. 1:3; 9:12; 10:14-18). They deny the eternal accomplishments of His death. They deny His absolute rule in creation and providence and especially salvation as the glorified God-man on heaven’s throne. Many religions blatantly deny Christ in this way. Others deny Him more subtly by denying that Jesus Christ saved His people and

only His people in His death and resurrection (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Thus, men deny Christ when they deny His person and His Gospel.

2. Second, in (v6-7), Jesus said is to expect wars and rumors of wars throughout time. We are very familiar with war. War is the result of proud men cruelly and greedily seeking control over others by fear, and seeking to enrich themselves with land and wealth. Terrorism is a form of war. The most cruel wars occur when religion joins political forces. Jesus said wars would occur throughout history. History verifies His word. Jesus said when we hear of false christs and wars, we must not think the end of the world is come (v6).
3. Third, in (v7), Jesus said to expect creation to act against man throughout time. God told man in the beginning to have dominion over creation (Gen. 1:26). But man sinned against God. Creation therefore became subject to decay and death. Throughout time, men have experienced a mixture of blessing and suffering from creation (Luke 13:1-5). Creation groans with every believer waiting for God to reveal His sons when Christ returns on the last day (Rom. 8:22-23). But Jesus said that when we see trouble in creation, we should know it is only the beginning, not the end of sorrows. Earthquakes and plagues are not signs of the end of the world. They are signs of man's sin and judgment to come (Noah, Sodom).
4. Fourth, in (v9), Jesus said persecutors would afflict and kill believers because they hate Christ and hate His Gospel. Men naturally think they rule over God in salvation. They think they determine if and when God will save them. Men think they can manipulate God. But the Gospel says God saves by His choice alone and by His work alone. "*Of His own will begat He us by the word of truth*" (James 1:18). "*When He had by Himself purged our sins, He sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high*" (Heb. 1:3). Therefore, men hate the Gospel. Men hate the Gospel because the Gospel says God saves whom He will and by His work alone. "*It is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy*" (Rom. 9:16). And men hate the Gospel because they want others to think they are good and holy. But the Gospel says there is none good but God. And men hate the Gospel because they like to rule over others. But the Gospel frees believers

from the controlling fear of man. Men hate the Gospel because they like to boast about themselves compared to others. But the Gospel says all men are sinners before God and must be saved by His sovereign grace alone (Acts 15:9-11). God's salvation by grace alone, in Christ alone, excludes all boasting (1 Cor. 1:30-31). Men think highly of themselves. The Gospel exposes man's natural, proud heart as only evil (Mark 7:21-23; Rom. 3:9-19). Therefore, men hate Christ and they hate His Gospel.

5. Fifth, in (v10) Jesus said expect many to leave Christ because of persecutions for the Gospel's sake. He said men would turn from the Gospel, betray one another and hate one another. When everyone denies the truth, it is hard to believe it. But it is even harder when you are hated for Christ's sake. But Jesus said these things will mount up as an army against His people. And yet there is more...
6. Sixth, in (v11) Jesus said to expect satan to raise up many false prophets (2 Cor. 11:13-15). False prophets claim to know Christ. They claim Jesus sent them. They teach and do good works in Jesus' name. They do things that appear wonderful to men (Matt. 7:21-23; Deut. 13:1-3). They work miracles. They speak in tongues. They do not openly deny Christ. In fact, they are the leaders in churches. They teach and preach in Jesus' name. But they teach lies (Gal. 1:6-9). False prophets have an outward form of godliness, but deny the power of it in the heart of men (2 Tim. 3:5). They deny their own sinfulness. They deny that Christ save sinners by Himself, with no help from them (Heb. 1:3; 10:14). One way to identify a false prophet is to ask, "*How will you answer Christ, the Judge, on the Day of Judgment*" (Matt. 7:21-23)? A false prophet will always answer with what they do or what they did in the past. How many times have you heard someone defend their standing before God by referring back to something they did, to their decision for Jesus or to their baptism? But true believers have only one answer. They have only one answer when they pray. They have only one answer in their conscience. They have only one answer when they talk to others. My only answer before God, in my conscience and before men, is Jesus Christ and Him crucified (Rom. 8:34). He is all my salvation. Believers tell the truth about themselves and they trust Christ alone. One man said it best when He said, "I am a great

sinner, and nothing at all, but Jesus Christ is my all in all.” My answer, my only answer, is Christ and Him crucified. If Christ did not answer God in full satisfaction to His justice at the cross for me, a very wicked sinner, I have no answer before God (Heb. 10:14-18)! If the Spirit of Christ does not answer in my conscience with the blood of Jesus alone, I have no answer (Heb. 9:14). And if Christ does not answer for me in the Day of Judgment, I have no answer (Rom. 8:34)! False prophets can be known because they always add something to Christ and what He has done, especially when they talk about their standing before God. The self-righteous Pharisee prayed with himself, “*God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are...*” (Luke 18:11). Not as other men?! False prophets think that what they do makes them different from others. “I made a decision! I accepted Jesus! I repented! I speak in tongues! I see visions! I have a special sense of God’s presence!” False prophets always end their self-righteous boast with, “Have you?!” But believers pray what the publican prayed. “Have mercy on me THE sinner! Look upon Christ and His sacrifice of Himself. Receive me for His sake alone” (Luke 18:13)! Believers don’t say, “Have you?” They say, “Behold the Lamb of God!” But false prophets make salvation depend on men doing their part. “God will save you, they say, if you do your part!” But this leaves real sinners without hope. Real sinners are spiritually unable to do one thing of all that God requires (Eph. 2:1-4)! If we are saved by doing our part, we rob God of His glory. False prophets say that God loves everybody, that Christ died for everybody and that the Spirit of God calls everybody, but that it is up to you to accept Christ to make what He did work. But if God treats all men the same, yet only some are saved, then man, not God, gets the glory. If salvation depends on me in some way, I have no hope! If you believe salvation depends on you, even in some small part, you have no hope (Rom. 11:6)! Therefore, you can discover a false prophet by asking this: “Who gets the glory in salvation, God or man? Who makes the difference between those who are saved and those who are lost, God or man? Does God save me in spite of my sin by His sovereign will and power in Christ alone, or does He depend on man’s will, man’s repentance, or man’s faith?” Jesus

said many false prophets would rise and teach false gospels (Gal. 1:6-9). He was describing the time in which we now live.

7. Seventh, in (v12) Jesus said to expect the love of many to grow cold. He said the love of many would grow cold because perversity would prevail. Sin cools love's flame. But faith fans love (Gal. 5:6; 1 John 4:10). When we think we can sin without consequence, our love for Christ grows cold. We only cry to Christ to be saved when we fear to sin, when sin is our greatest enemy, when we have no power over it, and when we fear to trust any but Christ for salvation from our sin! The Psalmist cried, "*Iniquities prevail against me; as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away*" (Ps. 65:3; Heb. 1:3)! The apostle Paul cried, "*O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (Rom. 7:24-25). Our love for Christ will only remain steadfast when we constantly cry to be delivered from our sin by the blood of Christ (Rev. 12:11). The apostle Peter said we have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-20). He went on to say, "*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently*" (1 Pet. 1:22). Obeying the truth is believing Christ. The Spirit of God produces faith in the heart. Love grows in the heart of a sinner who is looking to Christ to save him from his sins by His precious blood! Our heart is purified when we believe Christ. We love in proportion to what we have been forgiven (Luke 7:47). To the degree we know ourselves to be nothing but sin in ourselves and trust Christ as everything in our salvation, to that degree we will love God (1 John 4:10,19).

What we are guard against, how we are to live

Now, in light of the number and fierceness of the great enemies of our soul, Jesus said we must be on our guard and watch against five things:

1. (v4) First and foremost, "***Take heed that no man deceive you.***" We are deceived when we look to ourselves or something other than Christ as all of our salvation. The best remedy against deception is to look to Christ who is

the Truth (John 14:6; 1 John 5:12-13, 20). There is salvation in none but Christ. All God has for sinners is in the Lord Jesus Christ. *“In Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and you are complete in Him”* (Col. 2:9-10). *“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son”* (2 John 1:9). Therefore, we must take heed not to go beyond the Gospel of Christ only as all of our salvation, and so transgress God (1 John 3:23; John 6:29, 40).

2. (v6) Second, Jesus said, **“Be not troubled.”** The only way we will not be troubled is if Christ is all of our trust. *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, for he trusteth in thee”* (Isa. 26:3). Remember when Jesus spoke to His disciples, and especially to Peter just before the soldiers came and took Him? He said Peter would deny Him three times. But right after that, Jesus said, *“Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me”* (John 14:1). We will only have peace in our heart when we abandon all trust in ourselves and believe Christ to be our all before God. *“Being justified by faith, we have peace with God”* (Rom. 5:1). We overcome by *“Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of faith”* (Heb. 12:2; Rev. 12:11).
3. (v6) Third, we must be patient in faith. Jesus said, when you see all these things, *“The end is not yet.”* Remember, Abraham was patient in faith. When he and Sarah were too old to have children, he believed God (Rom. 4:21; Heb. 11:11). Faith holds fast to Christ and God’s promises in Christ when all evidence suggests the contrary (Heb. 3:6,14; 10:35; 11:24-27; Rom. 8:28-39). The Lord said sin shall not have dominion over believers because we are saved by grace, not by our works (Rom. 6:14; Gal. 3:1-2). Therefore, we believe His word and call upon Him to do what He has said: to save us to the uttermost. That is what prayer is: asking God to do what He has said (2 Sam. 7:25).
4. (v12) Fourth, Jesus said the love of many shall grow cold. Therefore, **we must not let our love grow cold.** How? How can we not let our love grow cold?! I will love Christ and His people in proportion to how great and many my sins were forgiven by God for Christ's sake alone (Luke 7:47; 1 Pet.

1:18-22). I love Him when I believe the love God has to me in Christ (1 John 4:16-17,19). We will have boldness in Judgment if Christ is our all-sufficient Savior (1 Tim. 1:1). We love Him because He first loved us. When we believe that in ourselves we are great sinners, and believe Christ has washed us from all our sins by His precious blood, when we believe the love God has towards us for Christ's sake, we will love Christ and His people (Rom. 5:5,10).

5. (v13) Fifth, Jesus said "*He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved*" (Matt. 24:13). We endure when we continue to believe Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Heb. 3:6,14). Only God the Holy Spirit can enable us to be ever looking to Christ as all of our salvation. Therefore, we pray with the Psalmist, "*Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe*" (Ps. 119:117). We go to Christ on His throne of grace for mercy and grace at all times. There is never a time when we don't need His grace (Heb. 4:16).

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- How can we hope to do all of these things? We must come to the throne of grace to find mercy and grace in time of need (Heb. 4:16).
 - We will not be deceived if Christ is our only truth about God and salvation (John 14:6). *“In Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and you are complete in Him”* (Col. 2:9-10) Don't go beyond Christ (2 John 2:9). He is the only way, the only truth and the only life (John 14:6; 2 Pet. 1:3)
 - We must walk by faith in the light of how God saves sinners in Christ alone (1 John 1:7). We must confess our sins (1 John 1:9).
 - We must *“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...and be...thankful”* (Col. 3:15).
 - We will be troubled unless we believe Christ. Jesus told His disciples, you believe in God, believe also in me (John 14:1). Therefore we must look to Christ for faith and all things at all times. *“Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of faith”* (Heb. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Pet. 5:6-9).
 - We must pray. The apostle Peter said, *“The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer”* (1 Pet. 4:7; Luke 18:1-8). We call on the Lord to save us for Christ's sake because He calls us to Christ by His Spirit of Truth and Grace (Joel 2:32; 1 Cor. 1:2; Matt. 15:21-28; Psa. 116:1-13; Ps. 3:1-3; 34:17; 35:1-3; 46:1-11;

50:15; 55:16-17, 22; 62:5-8; 65:3; 79:9; 80:3,7,17-19; 94:17-18; 106:4-5; 119:116-117, 133, 175-176; Hosea 14:1-6; Job 27:10; 33:27)!

- Pray God's promises. “*Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law, but under grace*” (Rom. 6:14). Therefore, we pray, “*Let not any iniquity have dominion over me*” (Ps. 119:133; Php. 1:6; Jude 1:25; 1 Thess. 5:23-24).
- Be patient in faith. We look not on those things which are seen, but on those things which are not seen (2 Cor. 4:18; Luke 21:19; Heb. 6:18; Gal. 5:5; Heb. 11:13-16). God was not ashamed to be called their God!
- Lean heavily on Christ. Come boldly to His throne by the blood of Jesus (Heb. 10:19-23).
- Call upon the Lord and be saved (Matt. 15:21-28; Psa. 116:1-13; Ps. 3:1-3; 34:17; 35:1-3; 46:1-11; 50:15; 55:16-17, 22; 62:5-8; 65:3; 79:9; 80:3,7,17-19; 94:17-18; 106:4-5; 119:116-117, 133, 175-176; Hosea 14:1-6; Job 27:10; 33:27)!
- We must come to Him, diligently seeking our all in Him as declared in His word, asking Him, seeking from Him, all that we need to know and believe and come to Him. We don't come with our spiritual graces, but for them.
- We call on Him because He calls us to Christ by His Spirit (John 6:44-45; Joel 2:32; 1 Cor. 1:2).

- Hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:13).
- Wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come (1 Thess. 1:10; 2 Pet. 3:12-13).
- We must sow bountifully by giving ourselves to support the Gospel, depending on God's grace (2 Cor. 9:6).
- We must not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25).
- We must bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:1-2).
- Call upon Christ as a sinner, out of the depths of your sin and shame, out of your utter unworthiness and weakness, when you fear your sin will overwhelm you, when the troubles of life and the prospect of future troubles alarm you, when judgment day itself looms, call upon the Lord Jesus Christ to save.
- Look to Christ only. Abandon all thoughts that what you do contributes to your salvation. Look to Christ who alone saves sinners, who alone saved sinners by Himself, and who will yet save them to the uttermost who come to God by Him.
- Remember the pit from which you have been saved (Rom. 5:10) and the price of your salvation (1 Pet. 1:18-20) and the One who gave Himself to redeem and reconcile you to God, and know that He cannot fail to complete the work He

started (Php. 1:6). He is faithful and able to do all to bring you to Himself and present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy (1 Thess. 5:23-24; Heb. 13:20-21; Jude 1:24-25). Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord (Col. 2:6), so walk in Him. Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2).