

## The Παρουσία & Watching

*Parousia, παρουσία, a Greek noun, παρά near, by, with + οὐσία, noun, tss. substance in the lesson which Christ brought before the Pharisees concerning the prodigal son. (cf. Lu 15:13)*

*And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance (οὐσίαν, acc. sing.) with riotous living.*

The verb form for οὐσία is εἶμι, to be. Now, the noun *parousia, παρουσία*, is tss. *a coming, a presence*. The verb form is πάρειμι, pareimi, and is tss. *to come, to present*. Not always, but sometimes *parousia, παρουσία*, sometimes speaks of a bodily, physical coming, and so carries the idea of an *arrival*.

*2Co 7:6 Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming (παρουσία, arrival) of Titus;  
7 And not by his coming (παρουσία, arrival) only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more.*

With reference to the Lord Jesus *παρουσία* can refer to His coming in His bodily, physical, glorified form. And so to speak of the *coming* or *παρουσία* of the Lord is to speak of His *arrival*.

Noun, *παρουσία*

*1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming (παρουσία, arrival) of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep.*

*1Th 2:19 For what [is] our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? [Are] not even ye in the presence (ἔμπροσθεν, adv., before, in the sight) of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming (παρουσία, arrival)?*

*1Jo 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that (ἵνα, in order that, purpose), when he shall appear (3s. aor. subj. pass. of φανερώω, should be*

manifested), *we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before (ἀπό) him at (ἐν) his coming (παρουσία, arrival)?*

Verb, **πάρειμι**

*Jn.7.6 Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come (arrived): but your time is alway ready.*

*Joh 11:28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come (has arrived), and calleth for thee.*

Notice also that the Greek *parousia* is used with reference to the time of the arrival of the man of sin, the son of perdition, the Antichrist.

*2Th.2.8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming (παρουσία, arrival):*

*9 [Even him (The Antichrist)], whose coming (παρουσία): is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

*10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

So, necessarily, by what we just read the Antichrist shall arrive first, and then after his arrival the Lord Jesus Christ shall arrive. By the word of God we know that several things occur at the time of the arrival of the Lord Jesus. At His coming the dead in Christ shall be raised together with the living, which is the first resurrection. Of course we should understand that there is a *first* resurrection and a *last* resurrection. (cf. Re.20.5, 6; Jn.5.29; He.11.35; Dan.12.2) When the Lord Jesus arrives is the time of the first resurrection, which is an indivisible, singular, momentous event. But also, when He arrives then the Antichrist, and those with him shall all be destroyed. (cf. 1Th.4.16, 17) So to be sure that we understand correctly the order of events as given to us by the word of God, the man of sin, the Antichrist, the impersonator of our Lord Jesus shall arrive, then after the Antichrist has his time the Lord Jesus shall arrive, *then* the dead and the living saints of God shall be raised in the rapture/resurrection event, and the man of sin and all his followers shall be destroyed. It is as simple as that.

When the Lord Jesus arrives things as they are presently shall be greatly altered from how they used to be. The kingdoms of the world will no longer be governed by the basest of men. (cf. Dan.4.17) Then the righteous shall rule on this earth under the Prince of princes (cf. Dan.8.25) and the King of kings and the Lord of lords (cf. 1Ti.6.15; Re.17.14; 19.16). ALL of them, not some of them, but all of them that knew not God, and all of them that obeyed not the call of the gospel to repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, shall all be destroyed *from before the face of the Lord Jesus.*

*2Th.1.6 Seeing [it is] a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;*

*7 And to you who are troubled (God will recompense) rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed (ἀποκαλύπτω) from heaven with his mighty angels,*

*8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

*9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence (face) of the Lord, and from the glory of his power (their destruction will be wonderful, amazing, awesome, fearful);*

*10 When he shall come (Gr. ἔρχομαι, very common verb, tss. to come, to go, to light upon, to fall) <sup>1</sup>to be glorified in his saints, and <sup>2</sup>to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*

When the Lord Jesus returns, what follows will be the beginning of an entirely new era for the earth and all that dwell on it. Then is the time of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ (cf. Lk.19.12; Ro.15.12; 1Co.15.25; Re.11.15), and all His saints shall rule and reign with Him. (cf. 2Ti.2.12; Re.2.26, 27; 5.10; 20.6; 22.5) This will be a time of incomparable blessing to this terrestrial globe and to everyone living on it. Then the promised Messiah will take His throne; He that was virgin born, the one who showed Himself to be God come in human flesh by healing all manner of sickness and disease, giving sight to the blind, restoring whole again the crippled and maimed, giving speech to the dumb, hearing to the deaf, and raising the dead from their graves; all to prove that the Son of God has the power to forgive sins and give everlasting life to whomever He pleased. Jesus Christ came to save His people from their sins, to give them a righteous standing before God so that they might *have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* (cf.

Jn.10.10) In view of the things we have considered the child of God could not be encouraged more to hope in God, to be a faithful servant, to be steadfast in His doctrine, to be ever growing in grace, to be conforming to the image of the Master. How are we doing in the whole scheme of things as it related to being watchful? Do we know what it means to be watchful? What are we to watch for?

The word of God gives warning to the children of God to be watchful for the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ. By watchful the Lord warns us to be awake, alert, understanding the day in which we live, believing what the Scriptures teach concerning men in the last days, to be spiritually sleepless and attentive to the climate of our day. He doesn't mean that we are to watch in such a way so that we are not caught, so-to-speak, with our hands in the cookie jar? He doesn't mean that we should be able to tell the time of Christ's coming is near so that we might finagle living as we please for now and then amend ourselves just before we think that He is about to return. That's not the idea. Such persons living in this way are unwatchful. They show that they do not understand what it means to be watchful.

The verb *to watch* speaks particularly of expecting the certain, sure judgment of God and Jesus Christ to fall, understanding it when it begins to fall, and being able to glorify God *as it falls* upon an unsuspecting generation of sinners which have refused to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, repent of sins before God and trust in Christ to the saving of the soul. Judgment is coming and the child of God knows that it is coming IF in fact he is watchful.

To the child of God, being watchful means that he will be holy before God and the world. Watchful Christians will not be like the world. Watchful Christians will not be overwhelmed by the spirit of this world. The watchful Christian will be separate from the world to God. He will not look like the world that trapes around, flaunting their bodies nakedly before everyone. His language will not be like the world with its curses, profanity, and evil speaking. His actions will not be like the world, hateful, retributive, mean-spirited, striving, fighting, proud, boasting, etc.

*2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,*

*18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

Being watchful is living in a state of readiness for the judgment that will fall at the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

γρηγορέω, to be awake, vigilant, watching against being ruined, spoiled by the world in light of the unknown hour of Christ's coming to earth in judgment.

*Mt 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come (3s. pres. of ἔρχομαι, comes 'in judgment, or goes forth in judgment ).*

*Mt.24.38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not (What? that the Lord was coming in judgment) until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

*40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be (over-)taken (παραλαμβάνω), and the other left.*

*41 Two [women shall be] grinding at the mill; the one shall be (over-)taken, and the other left.*

The idea of watching is not about trying to figure out when the Lord Jesus will return. That is an unknown hour. The idea of watching concerns the danger of being lulled to sleep by the things of the world and away from the life of Christ. Watching is against the danger of becoming in a sort of drunken stupor to Christ, to the spiritual things of Christ. The danger for the child of God is that we are prone to becoming enamored with the things of this world; whether it is eating, drinking, marrying and giving marriage. Everything in this world has a hook in it. We can spend the entirety of our lives in some thing and never having lived for Christ. Now, that is a great loss. If Christ cannot be in it then we need to get out of it. He should be in

our job, in our family, in our recreation, in our private time, in our fellowship, etc. Otherwise, Christ's coming to judge the world will overtake us because we were not watchful. His coming in judgment caught us off-guard, unprepared, unready.

*To watch* is an act of looking to ourselves so that we are not overtaken with the spirit of this world; a spirit which dominates an unregenerate world.

*1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

*Mt.6.31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*

*32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

*33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

*34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof.*

IT IS BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE SIMPLEST THINGS THAT WE MIGHT BECOME UNWATCHFUL, UNPREPARED FOR THE TIME WHEN CHRIST COMES IN JUDGEMENT. Now, you should understand that the implication of this text, that we are reading in Mt.24.42-44 is that the children of God will be here when Christ comes in judgment upon the earth. Being watchful, being awake, being sleepless, being alert, being diligent to keep ourselves in the will of God we will not be caught unprepared and ignorant of that day. We will know what Christ is doing and we will not fail in our faith when we

see the great judgments of Christ fall upon the earth during that time.

*43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.*

*44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh (in judgment).*

It is understandable that the world will be caught by surprise when Christ comes to judge the earth. But the child of God should know better. The watchful will understand and find comfort in knowing that the things he sees, even the things which he might likely experience, are from the hand of the Lord. He knew what was coming and he prepared himself against that time of trouble.

*νήφω*, a state of sobriety, sober, as opposed to drunken, dull, in a stupor.

*1Pe.4.7 ¶ But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober (of a right mind; Lk.8.35, the man of Gadara), and watch (νήφω, sober; 1Th.5.6, 8; 1Pe.1.13; 5.8) unto prayer.*

*ἀγρυπνέω*, to be sleepless, to be attentive.

*Lk.21.34 And take heed (προσέχω, have regard, give attendance) to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged (3pl. aor. subj. pass. of βαρύνω, weighted, burdened, heavy) with surfeiting (excesses, extravagances), and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and [so] that day come upon you unawares (so suddenly, unexpectedly).*

*35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

*36 Watch (ἀγρυπνέω, Be sleepless, Be attentive) ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape (ἐλφεύγω, to avoid, to flee from) all these that shall come to*

*pass things (of divine judgments which shall fall in that day), and to stand before the Son of man (having properly attended to his life to be conformed to Christ rather than to the world.)*

*Mk.13.19 For [in] those days shall be affliction (tribulation), such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.*

*20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. (The implication is that the elect shall be here during the time of great tribulation.)*

*21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here [is] Christ; or, lo, [he is] there; believe [him] not:*

*22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if [it were] possible, even the elect.*

*23 But take ye heed (βλέπετε, Look, See, Beware): behold, I have foretold you all things.*

*24 ¶ But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,*

*25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.*

*26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.*

*27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.*

The gathering together of all of the elect of God shall be *after* the tribulation of those days. But will the child of God be gathered to Christ in a state of wakefulness and spiritual attention or in a state of unfaithfulness, being overcome by the spirit of this world, having wasted the time of his life for what this world offered?

‘Jesus exhorted the disciples against becoming inextricably involved in the cares and concerns of earthly existence so that



the true character of their life is lost. ... The disciple is not to find his treasure on earth but in heaven (vs. 34 [of Lk.12.22-24]), for present existence is transitory; he is to live all his life in expectation of the return of Christ which will bring the present state of existence to its end. The believer is living for the life of the age to come. Therefore, life is to be characterized by an attitude of expectancy toward the attainment of that life. We are to be *looking for* Christ's return. "Be ye yourselves like unto men looking for their lord: (v.36)." *The Blessed Hope*, George Eldon Ladd, Eerdmans Publishing Co., pp.115, 116

Christ is coming again to judge the earth. In the wisdom of God the hour when this begins is unrevealed, but it will take the world by complete surprise. But evidently this will also catch many of the children of God by surprise because they would not watch over the state of their souls. They allowed for the spirit of this world to take root in their hearts. But some will be watchful. By the grace of God they put away, they cast off, and cut off occasion for the world to find lodging in their hearts. They are prepared against the time of coming judgment. They're not waiting for the day to prepare; they are prepared now. They know what is coming and have adjusted their lives and are ready for that day. They know it will be a day of great trial. But they're trusting the Lord now and they'll trust the Lord then.

I'll close with this text. It has both the Greek verbs for watch, ἀγρυπνέω, to be sleepless, to be attentive, and γρηγορέω, to be awake, vigilant, watching against being ruined, spoiled by the world in light of the unknown hour of Christ's coming to earth in judgment.

*Mk.13.31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

*32 But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. (An unknown hour when Christ shall bring His righteous judgment upon the world. (Ps. 9.8; Ac.17.31)*

*33 Take ye heed (βλέπετε, Look, See, Beware), watch (ἀγρυπνέω, to be sleepless, to be attentive) and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*

*34 [For the Son of man is] as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and*

*commanded the porter to watch (γρηγορέω, to be awake, vigilant, watching against being ruined, spoiled by the spirit of this world).*

*35 Watch (γρηγορέω) ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh (ἔρχομαι, comes, goes, lights, falls), at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:*

*36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping (καθεύδω, as the world sleeps in spiritual darkness).*

*37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch (γρηγορέω, against being ruined or spoiled by the spirit of this world).*

*Lu 12:23 The life is more than meat, and the body [is more] than raiment.*

Christ will arrive to earth one day. But just before that day the children of God will suffer unparalleled persecution under the man of sin and all those under his direction. The Lord will begin to pour out upon the unsuspecting world several major, world-wide destructive judgments just before His arrival. The word of God tells us this much. And at all times the child of God should keep himself in a constant state of spiritual readiness, watchful against the world making any inroads in our hearts and minds so that we are not as Christ would have us to be. If we will not the things coming will be much more difficult than they already will be. But when Christ does arrive, the Antichrist and all his hosts shall be destroyed and then the millennial kingdom will begin.

*Re.3.3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*

Watch against the growing spirit of this world in the hearts.

*He.10.35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.*

*36 For ye have need of patience (the implication of continuing under hardship), that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

*37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

*38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

*39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ is going to arrive. Until then, Watch!

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