

CgiKawartha-2026-HoraneSmith-BeforeTheBrideGroomComes

Yes, it's good to be here.

When I went out just here a while ago to the door while we were singing,
I heard somebody talking about a wedding.

Yeah, a wedding.

Do we know that there's a wedding coming up here?

No?

We have a wedding to go. You didn't hear?

I'm a little disappointed.

Because the wedding is coming, birthday. So the title of the sermon today is Before the
Bridegroom
Comes.

Oh, yes. This is something we can't forget because this is not an ordinary wedding.

Right? And it's coming as sure as possible. And the big deal for us is that we have been invited.

Right? And another big deal, I think all of us have our SVP.

You know, those things you get an invitation. So let's go to Matthew 25.10.

Matthew 25.10. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came,

and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding. See?

And the door was shut. Afterward, the other virgins came also saying,

Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Then in the same Matthew 25 and verse 21, sorry, verse 1, the very first verse,

it says, The kingdom of heaven shall be lightened to ten virgins who took their lambs and they
went

out to meet the bridegroom.

And turn to Matthew 9 verse 15. Matthew 9 verse 15 says,

Jesus said to them, The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is
with

them, can they? But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them and then
they

will fast. The bridegroom has come. What this is telling us,

brethren, is that a wedding is on the horizon. And the bridegroom is coming.

And who is the bride?

Who is the bride? Of course, the church. So we are part of the bride here.

We are part of it. Don't ever forget that. He is coming.

We are approaching the season. The fall festival season beginning with the Feast of Trumpets
tells

us Jesus is coming. Revelation 1.7 says, Behold,

he comes with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him,

and all the kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.

Even so. Amen. So the sky is going to be lit up soon.

Very soon the sky is going to lit up with the glory that is going to be revealed. It will be a
visible coming. Every eye shall see him who are alive.

No doubt about that. Matthew 24 tells us, Matthew 24, 27,
for as the lightning comes out of the east and shines even unto the west,
so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. So there is no doubt about that.
Even in Revelation, we see in Revelation 12,
17, that one has already been waging war on the bride,
and he continues to wage that war even after Christ's visible coming is there,
is obvious. It says the dragon was wrought with the woman and went to make war with the
remnant of
her seed who keeps the commandment of God and have the testimony of Christ.
So that's the church. Because we keep the commandments of God. And we have the testimony
of the
Christ. So war is coming. In fact, I think the war is already on the church.
That's how I see it. But there's so many things happening. You go to each congregation and you
see
here things and you turn on your media, whatever, social or whatever you see.
Things happening and you realize that there's a war against the church. But my message today
is
that the bride, the church, must begin to brace itself if it has not been bracing itself for this
war. that is coming and this attack that has been coming. Christ himself says,
watch and pray. Watch and pray. He's coming in great power and glory.
Unlike the first coming, right? The first coming was like a lamb, pictured as a lamb.
Innocent and humble and so on. But now he's coming as a triumphant king.
Because you see the picture in Revelation 1 when you read it of this one who is coming, the
exalted, glorified Christ with a sword in his mouth. The sword pictures war and authority.
And his eyes are glowing like fire. That's not a lamb coming. He's a lamb,
yes. Revelation pictures him as a lamb. But this is a king coming to wage war against evil.
Evil. And then at the end of... war, he's going to marry his bride.
But as the sermon title is, Before the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, there are some things that
are
going to come upon us as a church, as a congregation, because of what is written in the word of
God. So this spiritual marriage is a central metaphor in the Bible,
culminating In the marriage supper of the Lamb described in the book of Revelation. The
marriage
supper of the Lamb, in fact, is a kind of Passover too. It's a supper. You remember when Jesus
on
Passover night, he said that he's looking forward to sip of the cup of the fruit of the vine with
you anew in the kingdom. That's what he's talking about. The marriage supper. So it's a kind of
Passover that's going to happen in the kingdom. Not Easter.
Not Easter.
Passover.
So, in Revelation 1, no, sorry,
Revelation 19, and I heard,
as it were, the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters,
verse 6, and as the voice of many mighty thundering,

saying, Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor

to him for the marriage of the Lamb is come. The marriage of the Lamb is come.

So that scenario is a reality yet future.

And then this is the part that should concern all of us. And his wife, which is the church, has made herself ready. So we see this. projection into the future where the church is ready for the bridegroom.

Now, what this is telling us, and Jesus made that statement too,

he says that the gates of the grave or death or hell, some translation will tell you, will not prevail against the church. It can't stop it.

It can't stop the church. So if revelation is telling us, Or gives us a scenario in the future which says his wife has made herself ready. Do you know what that is telling us, brethren? Whether we are there or not, the church is going to be ready. So it boils down now to us

as individuals. Are you ready?

The things that are going to come upon the church, how will it affect you? Because these things are

going to come upon the church. How is it going to affect you?

Will you leave

and go back to the world?

When we have split loyalties between the world and the church, sometimes the world gets to us.

And it's so easy to give up on our Christian journey and say, no, I can't take it anymore.

So this is important. The church is pictured as ready.

And verse 8 says,

That's purity. Linen in the Bible is

symbolic of purity. So the church is going to be clothed in fine linen,

clean and white. For the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.

And verse 9, he said unto me, Right blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper.

Again, I want you to notice that little word, called.

So you know what this is saying again, brethren?

Anybody can tell me what is inferred here?

Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Go ahead, Nancy. We are called because we are keeping all his commandments,

and we follow all the Sabbath, and we belong to this church.

We are called because we are following God.

Okay, that's a reasonable answer, but that's not what I'm looking for, though. What I'm looking for

is this. It says, blessed are they who

are called. So this is telling us it's not everybody. It's not everybody is called to this marriage supper. They. It didn't say blessed are everybody who are called.

It said they. So it categorizes people.

And you know our teaching is that God is not trying to save the world. He's not calling everybody.

So you can go to the Anglican church and you talk to people there. perhaps,

who God is calling from that church to his truth. His word is truth.

And you can go to the Anglican church and you can talk to people and they just say, I'm in this church for years. Why do you think I'm going to leave this church? And this is my church. And people behave like that. But in the New Testament, again, we learn, my sheep hear my voice and they

follow me. Right? I was in the Sunday church, and maybe all of us here were at some point in the

Sunday church. But guess what? We got a call to this marriage supper.

So that's the difference. We got a call. We could have rejected the call, mind you.

It's not a one save always save as some churches teach.

Many are being called. Let's be clear on that.

Many are being called. but not everybody is choosing to follow. So we're always talking about the

call out ones, the call, call, call. And this is just backing it up here to tell you that not everybody is getting this call. So we got the call, and that is one of the reasons why we are here today.

So we see how then this concept of this marriage to the church,

believe it or not, it's deeply woven. into the teachings of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. If you look at Isaiah 25, verse 6, Isaiah 25,

verse 6, prophesies a messianic banquet. Yeah,

a banquet, a wedding, basically. And this is from the Old Testament. So this Old Testament prophecy

foreshadows the ultimate end time prophetic full time.

marriage supper of the Lamb. It's an end time feast on God's holy mountain.

And the mountain in your Bible always refers to a government of God,

not human governments. A government of God where death will be swallowed up forever.

In verse 6 it says, and in this mountain, meaning under this jurisdiction,

under this rulership, shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast.

It's a wedding feast. You look at the Hebrew terminology here. It's talking about a wedding feast,

a banquet of fat things. It don't mean things leaking out with fat.

It don't mean that kind of fat. But nutritious,

basically. A feast of good things then.

Nutritional value. A feast of wines, a feast of the lees,

of fat things full of marrow. And marrow is not a bad thing.

You know what marrow is in the bone, that marrow? It looks like fat,

but it's not fat. I learned that from my daughter, Samara, because she's always buying marrow. I said, buying marrow? She said, no, it's not fat. It's good for it. A lot of minerals in there.

I didn't realize that. It looks just like fat. And the Bible tells you about it here.

It's so good the Bible. I mean, the Bible is everything. Tell you about this feast with things full of marrow, of wines on the leaves, well refined. And then look at verse 7.

And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people and the veil that is spread over all nations. So there is a veil now spread over all nations.

And that is why they will not see the truth of what it is. That is why he has to call people,

pluck them out of these nations to prepare them for the marriage supper of the Lamb. He will swallow up death in victory. That is coming from Revelation 20. Right?

And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all their faces again. When you remember in Revelation

20, Christ says he comes to tabernacle with men and death will be swallowed up in victory and there

will be no more tears. That's where it's coming from here.

He will wipe away tears from all faces and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from all the earth.

For Yahweh has spoken it. He said it. He has said it. So this marriage supper is important and that

is why we see in the New Testament. Paul uses human marriage as a reflection of Christ's love for

the church. Because I don't know if you often wonder why God gives us families on earth.

I shouldn't wonder, I know. You see that relationship between father, son, wife,

and so on. You see the same pattern in the heavenly realm. God the Father, Jesus the Son,

Christ coming to marry the church. That's parallel. You see that clear?

He explains that just as a husband and a wife become one, Christ and the church are spiritually united. And when you study how a Jewish wedding goes,

there's a betrothal period when the bridegroom goes away and leaves the bride behind.

And after such time, he comes back to marry his bride. The same thing.

Christ has gone away, left the bride alone. He said, Dole, I go to prepare a place for you and I will come again. Not taking nobody to heaven. He's coming again. And then he's going to marry the

bride. The church. It's so clear. All those parlors are there. So this will be the final wedding.

Yes, it's going to be the final wedding because Christ marrying the church is finalized for eternity. That's a bond. That will never be broken. It's going to be finalized into eternity.

Final wedding. And believers are going to be united with Christ. To dwell with him forever.

So we see that those parallels are obvious. So the question now is.

As we wait for this wedding. We have to prepare. Just like when we go to a human wedding.

Those people I saw at the door, they were talking about the wedding preparation, basically.

What

they have to do, what they have to do for the wedding. That is how we now have to prepare as a church for that marriage supper of the Lamb.

That is how we have to prepare.

You know, I would think sometimes in my earlier years,

you know, I'm wondering if I would be sad at that wedding because some people may not be there that

you would want to be there like you. parents maybe, or your spouse, or your children.

But I just read it a while ago.

You must take comfort to the promise of God that sorrow will be wiped away and that tears will be

wiped away during that time. There will be no place for that. So we're not going to go there with any sad face.

God in His sovereign power will decide how to do that. But He will give us that. That characteristic where there won't be any sorrow in the kingdom. No pain in the kingdom. No death in the kingdom. Nothing that wars against the soul as we go through our lives now that will not be there.

So I got over that and said, oh, that's how it's going to be. The former things are passed away. And those former things are the terrible challenges that we have in life, basically. They're gone. A new constitution is.

So there has to be a spiritual readiness. In 2 Corinthians 11, 2, 2 Corinthians 11, 2, he says, for I feel a divine jealousy for you.

Since I betroth you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

That is how we're talking to the church, warning. About any idolatry. Getting involved in any idolatry. He says he's jealous. He's jealous. He said that over and over.

In the Old Testament. And that is when we follow other gods. And they don't necessarily have to be.

A statue that you're bowing down to. A god can be. Can be your spouse.

You know that? Your spouse can become a god in your life. Because anything that you put before

Yahweh is ideology. Anything, a spouse, a car,

a child, a house, a job, is ideology. That's what it is. An idol is something that takes the place.

of God in your life and he hates that Jesus frequently warned his followers to stay awake and be alert meaning they should live lives of constant obedience faith and devotion not lives paved by distractions and believe me this is what we are dealing with today the distractions in our lives and they come in different ways

You can have a spouse who couldn't care less whether you come to church or not. That is going to be

your challenge, to live a life faithful to God. You can have a workplace that won't give you the Sabbath off and you have to be struggling to get that time off to worship.

And it comes in different ways. But we have to stay faithful.

Faithful to the end. He that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne.

as I overcame and is now sitting down in my Father's throne. That's the words of Christ.

We have to be endures, overcomers. When he comes,

it will be a time of resurrection and transformation. The righteous dead will be resurrected with imperishable bodies and living believers or the saints will be transformed to meet him.

in the air when they meet him in there they will be transformed and so they're after the wedding feast at some point after everything is done after all the the planning and so on i think one of the um i don't know if any of any of you have heard this one of those churches of god i don't remember which one of them i think they're now saying that this wedding feast could be in heaven

not on the earth could be speculation the bible doesn't tell you anything that it could be in heaven. I'm just saying, it's possible, it could be. It could be. Because this feast,

this wedding feast, after all the trials have come upon the earth, and Babylon has fallen, the seven seals are over, and so on. This is when this feast is going to happen. So it's possible. Matthew 24, 30 says, And then shall appear the sign. of the Son of Man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn. They're going to be crying because the whole system is coming down. And they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power

and great glory. And then he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, meaning the four areas, east, west, north, south. And from one end of heaven to the other.

And so Christ's return marks the removal of the curse of sin.

The defeat of evil begins. And the establishment of an eternal kingdom characterized by peace, righteousness, and the permanent presence of God.

But, but, but, before he returns, what is happening in the church?

what will be happening in the church, what should be happening in the church.

I see a trend that I think probably last time I was here, I touched on it. I see a trend, a disturbing trend developing in the church where, not necessarily in this congregation, but other places, other congregations, I would presume, where people are crying for change, change in the church, church with change. The church will look like society and adopt the society

and all the changes going on there. And brethren, that is going to be a blow to the church and to you.

Because that is not what the church is here for. The church is here for,

and you can check it out when you want, Matthew 28 and Acts 1. Towards the end of Matthew 28 is

there. The commission given to the church. And what is it? to preach the gospel of the kingdom to

the world, and then the end shall come. Right?

That's towards the end of the matter. That is there. Also, in Acts 1, at the Ascension, when everybody was gathered there, and somebody, one of the angels that was said,

Men of Galilee, why are you looking at this Jesus? The same way you see him go, the same way he's

going to come back. And then he makes a fundamental, just before that, a fundamental, statement

that you should be a witness to me beginning in Jerusalem and to the uttermost part of the earth.

By the way, before I forget, I want you to mark this down. On September 9th,

September 9th at 8pm, I will be doing another special presentation. Some of you might have watched

the one on Passover and the one on Pentecost. So I'll be doing one on that Wednesday at 8 o'clock

sharp. Stephan will probably give you the Zoom link. And the title will be,

Could Christ Return in Your Lifetime? Could Christ Return in Your Lifetime?

I'm going to go through some scenarios to try to answer that question. And it's right two days before the Feast of Trumpets. So that's the timing for it. Really talking about the second coming.

Yeah, so people think, and I've had to deal with this question on more than one occasion, but a church, you know, a church is not attracting people, so it should be trying to, you know, one day somebody asks me why we are not on the street with placards demonstrating against, you know, the marriage and this and that. Why we are not on the street with placards demonstrating

against it. I've had that question quite a few times. And my response is why?

Why should we? Is that what we've been called to preach the gospel? But what's the point in singling out? There's so many evils in society. What's the point in just singling out one of them? It's wrong. I'm not saying it's not wrong. But that is the church. That is the commission given to the church. Then we get another question. Why are we not going to do it? Why we don't have a big

food bank that we can't feed people? And we have all of these charitable things going because that's what the church should be doing.

I'm sorry, that's not in the commission. The church's primary rule, I don't know if I've said it here before, I'm saying it again. The church's primary goal and duty is to give people spiritual food. The gospel, the life-saving message of the gospel.

Yes, we can do charitable things, but that is secondary. Yes, we can have food bank, that is secondary. The primary role of the church is to feed people spiritually, preparing them for the return of Jesus the Christ and his coming kingdom.

So let's not be having it. Sunday churches are good at taking care of people.

They're good at that. I'll admit that. They have a very vibrant program. But then they don't understand the gospel message. Because all they tell people go to heaven and go to hell and that's

it. They don't understand what the gospel is. They don't understand what Jesus is coming to do. So we have to be careful when people tell you about the church not doing this and the church is not

doing that. The church's role is for spiritual food. That's the only way the end will come.

And the word says that. You preach the gospel to the world and then the end will come.

So that's the duty that we have as a church. So we can't be sidetracked by the distractions going out there. You know, why are we going to, why would we, I'm coming up,

this morning I'm coming here and I'm listening to a sermon where the elder was saying,

oh we should, when we see the Islamic takeover of certain countries and so on,

when you see the nuclear things, being talked about and so on, that we should pray.

Pray for it to stop.

And I said to myself, pray for it to stop? But this has to happen.

What we should pray for is us to be strengthened to deal with it, but not for it to be stopped.

Because how is the end going to come if these things don't fulfill? Good point. And I've been saying this over and over again when I hear people, we're going to march because we want the marriage to stop. I say, why do you want it to stop? It has to happen. The Bible says in Matthew 24, when you say these things happening, it's the beginning of sorrows. So why do you want to stop

it for? The Bible says it's going to start. It has to happen. So what I say, brethren, is pray for strength to cope and to deal with it.

To deal with it. So I probably will be the last person to ever lift a finger to stop anything.

This is prophecy being fulfilled. So why am I going to stop God's prophecy from being fulfilled?

I've been saying it, but it's like nobody's listening.

Jesus the Christ warns us about the patterns of the world.

He says, do not be a part of it. He said, I came into the world.

In fact, he said, we live in the world, but we must not be a part of the world. And that tells a big story. That tells a big story. The sidetracking,

we should not allow. There are social engineers out there. There are social and political activists out there. Don't be distracted by what's going on and allow them to creep into the church.

This is some of the things that were happening in the Corinthian church.

In 2 Corinthians 12, verse 20, and we can always take a cue from that church because a lot of things were going on in the church. You'll never imagine that this was the church of God.

They were quarreling with one another. They were slandering one another. A man was sleeping with

his stepdad's wife. You know that? Another was taking another to court.

in the church at Corinth. So Paul came there earlier, and then he was on tour in Ephesus, and somebody wrote him from the church and said, Paul, this is what is going on in the church.

And

this is why all these letters, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, most of it were in response to what was going on in Corinth. So God inspired Paul to address it. There was quarreling,

jealousy, rage, rivalries, gossip, arrogance,

and disorder.

And that is why he had to write those letters. Some came in from the,

in the pagan temples. What was happening is,

what was active in the pagan temples was gibberish.

We call it speaking in tongues, but it's gibberish. If you study 1 Corinthians 12,

you'll see Paul hinted at that. You know what Paul was saying? Listen. If you go down there, pick

up all of those gibberish, what is it? How would you know that you're not cursing Christ?

If you look at 1 Corinthians 12, the first four verses, read it. It was saying something along that line. Because they were coming to the church with all of these gibberish in unintelligible words, right? They were coming to the church with braided hair, which was a sign of prostitution.

Even they shaved head too. A lot of things were going on. And so Paul had to address it.

He wrote, that's one of the reasons why he wrote 1 Corinthians 14 about speaking in tongues and how

it should be done. Because it was a gift at the time that was needed. So he laid down some principles how it should be done. Because people were coming in, rolling on the floor and frothing

around their mouth and talking about speaking angelic language. Or unknown language.

Those were the things that were going. So historically we have to have an idea of some of the things that were going on in the church.

There were busybodies in the church. 1 Timothy 5.13 in Ephesus,

Paul warns about the younger widows who became idle. And they would go from house to house to

gossip. And he calls them busybodies. They were saying things that they ought not to do. Yes. In James. This was some of the issues, you know, brethren, in the early church.

In James chapter 3, verse 5, again, the letter from James,

Jesus' brother, emphasizes the tongue that is a small part of the body, but what?

It sets a world on fire. Because you know what? When something slips out of your mouth, you can't take it back.

And the tongue is a wicked, when I say wicked, member. I don't mean it's evil, but, you know, it can cause a lot of damage. Those were the things were going on.

Petty arguments.

There were people coming into the church with strange teachings. Oh, that's another story.

That's another story. If you're reading, he had to put out men like Hymenaeus and Philetus.

Because they came there with strange doctrines. And you know what one of the strange doctrines was?

That the resurrection already happened.

So if you read. Thessalonians, the letter to the Thessalonians when he talks about in the twinkling

of an eye at the last trump, he was assuring them that no, the resurrection is not here yet. It's going to happen. And you know what Paul said he did to those men?

It sounds harsh, but he said he handed them over to the devil.

People from within the church said they have to hand them over to the devil. That's how serious it

was. And if you remember, Paul went for three years in Ephesus.

Praying and fasting for the church because he said there is a time coming when wolves would invade

the church. And that's what he was talking about. These things happen. And don't believe that they

won't happen again. We have to be aware of the prevailing culture out there.

that it does not seep into the church. The patterns of the world Jesus warned about.

In Matthew 13, 22,

he warns, in this parable, he warns something that sometimes we tend to overlook.

He's saying that the ways of the world can choke spiritual truth if we're not careful.

Because The seed that was thrown among thorns,

he referred to that. And the one that hears the word and the care of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, what happened is that they choke the word and become unfruitful. So the

seeds fall on bad soil. They didn't grow anything. Produce weeds.

And the weeds choke the truth.

from going, from progressing spiritually, and they become unfruitful. And you know what the Bible

says about the unfruitful? They're like shafts, like the wind driveth away.

Psalm 1, we read that in Psalm 1 a while ago. And the tree that does not bear fruit,

he prunes it, and it might even be destroyed.

He taught in John 18.36, John 18.36, that the church's values are fundamentally opposite.

to those of the world. He said, my kingdom is not of this world.

It's not of this world. We are part of it, but we can't be in it.
And we live in it, but we can't follow the dictates of the world.
In Matthew 16, 6, he talks about, Matthew 16, 6, he talks about the 11 of the Pharisees,
right? And the Sadducees. We often hear this kind of sermon around days of unleavened bread,
how a little leaven leavened the whole lump. So something creeps into the church. And I've
seen
this happen already. A few years ago, we had this gentleman came into the church talking about
he's
getting dreams. And his dreams are direct lines from God. And he would come and try to
introduce
people to these dreams that he's getting. Oh, you have to accept it. They're from God. And after
a
while, I mean, He has a little grouping gather around him for his latest revelation.
After a while, he turned out to be the biggest fake.
So things creep in little by little, and if you're not careful, it's out of control. That's a
little leaven, leavening the whole lump. A little bit, but it grows and festers.
Jesus is coming to find a church of faithful believers. He expects that.
That's why he says in Revelation, the church was ready. No liars, no idolaters,
no hypocrites, no tail bearers. Just sincere, genuine people who don't sin. So we have to make
sure
we find ourselves in that category. Because whether or not we like it, the church is here to stay.
He's coming to find a hospital of sinners. A hospital for sinners,
rather. Because that's what the church is. Some people expect to come in here and find
everybody so
righteous. But this is really perfect. Everybody's so righteous.
No. The church is a hospital for sinners. We have been treated to get better.
Just like how you go to a hospital and treat it to get better. You come in the church and you're
treated. But how are you treated? With the word. And the word should make you live better
lives
before God.
Better lives before God. I met a woman who was, when I was back in my days,
working. It was a Pentecostal lady. I might have told you before because it keeps reminding me.
A Pentecostal lady. And she told me she has never sinned.
I said, what? I said, you sin right there.
We are all sinners. And I could never call her. She said she's not a sinner. You could not get her
to say she's a sinner. She said, no, I'm a sinner saved by grace. She's not a sinner.
I said, wow.
But we are all sinners. Falling short, striving to overcome sin, resisting the evil one,
putting on the shield of the armor of God.
That's what we are. You know, the Apostle Paul, even the Apostle Paul had struggles.
Romans 7, 15. Romans 7, 15. He said it in these words.
For I do not do the good I want to do. But the evil I do not want to do,
this I keep on doing. Now, if I do what I do not want to do,
it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So he's admitting that we are falling short.

When the bridegroom comes, when Jesus the Christ returns,
he's going to find the wheat and the tears growing together.

Just talk about it earlier. But he's going to sift out the wheat from the tear.

You go back in Matthew, and you see him separating the goats from the sheep.

And you hear him saying, some will come to him and say, Lord, I've done this and I've done that.

And he's going to say, depart from me, I know you're not. When did you do this? So the wheat and

the tear, we are going to grow together.

No, I'm not telling you to come next week and point out. You are a tear. You should not be here.

That's not your duty.

The Father Yahweh has appointed Jesus as the judge of all things.

He's the ultimate judge.

It's not for us to point out who is a tear. We don't know.

It's not our own. So you live your lives as the called out one who's trying,

trying, trying to be perfect. But you're going to have times when you will sin.

But sin should not reign. in our mortal bodies right satan accuses us every day or very often before god he's the accuser of the brethren he goes to the throne of god and said such and such a person is sinning and i imagine that scenario jesus standing there and say you know what i died for

him his sins i died for i died for the sins of the world and satan has to shut up Cunning.

He knows that. But he still tries.

But the coming of the holy and righteous judge is upon us.

From what we glean in the Bible, the state of the church at Christ's return will be twofold.

It has two faces, if you want to use that word.

Outwardly, it will face severe spiritual apathy. People just don't have any energy to worship God.

They come in here, I'm not saying right here, but you come to church, you can't even open your mouth to sing, you don't have any energy. But out in the world... Oh man,

you have all your energy to do things of the world. But even to come to church is a challenge.

You can't get up early. It's a spiritual apathy. You don't read the Bible. You don't study.

So that's one part of it.

Deception we've been warned about. Do not be deceived. The first sign that Christ gave in Matthew

24 when he was asked what would be the sign of his coming, the first one was deception. False teachers will be out there teaching false things. There will be a spirit of Antichrist.

I spoke of that briefly today. I think I have another sermon to do on that. Because the man of sin who is the Antichrist is coming on the scene. So there has to be a kind of precedence before that.

An atmosphere of people will accept it.

There will be moral decline. People doing all kind of immoral things that we think we can't stop.

No, we can't stop it. Saddam and Gomorrah was long ago. Still going on.
That's why it says, in the last day, dangerous times shall be upon us.
Men shall be lovers of themselves instead of lovers of God. They shall be lovers of pleasure, unthankful, unholy, despising those who are trying to serve God, basically.
The Bible talks about that scenario as well.
And also, Another part of the church, it tells people will be confused about what is right and what is wrong. And that is fulfilling a prophecy in Isaiah 2 that talks about they will not know darkness from light and truth from error. Basically, that's a prophecy too. And the time is upon us. You know, you read something sometime and you say people don't know what is right anymore because right has become wrong and wrong now has become the good thing.
What was good in the former days is now evil. And what was evil in the former days is now good.
That's the reverse that we are in right now. Anybody can see that. Anybody with a spiritual lens can look and see that without even having to ask. I've seen it so many times I can't even remember specific cases. But that's it. It's in reverse.
So again, that part, that face of it will be, people will be saying there's no truth. There's no absolute truth. Everybody decide what is true. Just like in the days of Israel, remember? Everybody was seeing what was right in their own eyes. It's coming back again. No standard.
But inwardly, that's outside, inwardly now, the true faithful church should be eagerly, all of us here now, should be eagerly watching Jesus' own words. praying, enduring the trials and temptations.
When we say the model prayer, there's a line in there that is very misleading. It says, lead us not into temptation.
Right? Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.
And lead us not into temptation. That's a mistranslation. God doesn't lead us into temptation. He says he tempts no man. What it should really be saying that in our hour of temptation, We seek his guidance, basically. That's how the translation should read. Because God doesn't lead anybody into temptation. But in our trials, in our hour of trial, lead us.
In our hour of trial, lead us.
So we should be enduring the trials, not distracted by the culture, and ultimately be presented as a spotless, radiant bride, clothed in linen, as the scripture said. The second coming of Christ is referenced over 1,500 passages in the Bible. Yes, in the Bible. So many passages about the second coming. Because he's returning ready for war.
Revelation 19, 11. Then I saw heaven opened. Revelation 19, 11.
And behold, a white horse, one sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges

and make war. His eyes are like a flame of fire. His head are many diadems.

You know that. Coming with the armies of heaven. Verse 14,

arrayed in fine linen, white and pure. And out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.

He will rule them with a rod of iron. So conditions on the earth is going to be terrible.

The condition of the church today may

very well take on some of these things that have happened in the past, especially to the churches of Revelation, the seven churches in Revelation 2 and

3.

Lukewarmness.

Apostasy. Christ said, if you're too lukewarm, I'm going to spit you out of my mouth.

2 Thessalonians 2, verse 1, talks about deception.

Let no one deceive you by the means, for that day will not come unless the falling away comes first

and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition. So there is going to be a situation where people are going to lose faith because they have lost touch with the returning Christ who is coming

to marry his bride.

There was a time when the church was lukewarm. It might very well be again. It says many are going

to fall away. Matthew 24, 10 says, Then many will fall away,

betray one another, hate one another, and become lawless. Lawlessness will increase and the love of

many will grow cold.

Yes, Timothy warns about that.

Careful not to devote yourself to deceiving spirits, deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.

Second Timothy 4.1.

Last month, I have to tell you this story. I don't ever told you before. You have to forgive me. I have so many stories to tell. And I tell you at different congregations. So if I repeat myself, don't be afraid to tell me you hear it already. I beg you. So I was coming from church in London.

And I told a story. A friend called me up. And we started talking.

Someone who was coming to our church. I must have told you this story, you sure?

Remember, stop me. I don't have time to tell it over again. But he said to me,

and I have witnesses in the van. My wife was there and the children. He said, Jesus did not keep the Sabbath.

He didn't hear the story, right? Yeah, he said, Jesus did not keep the Sabbath. This is somebody who I met from 1994 who has been keeping the Sabbath up to maybe about three years ago.

So I said, where did you get that from? He said, I just start laughing and giggling. He said, no, Jesus did not give the Sabbath. He said, in fact, he said, do you know where Moses got the Ten Commandments from?

I said, I know. He went on Sinai to get it. He said, yes, he went to Sinai to get it, but he got it from demons.

I said, what? He said, if the person's name was John, I said, John, is that you?

And I repeat three times, John, is you talking? And the person just...
I have this funny laugh. And then he said to me,
I'm calling when you reach one, we can talk about this further. I said, I will not waste the time with you to go over that, because you know better.
And this scripture just dawned on me here.
Now the Spirit expressly says, in the latter times, some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.
Jesus, I mean, Moses got the Ten Commandments from demons. That's a demonic teaching.
I'm showing you, brethren, that these things are going to happen.
In the same chapter, in the second chapter, 2 Timothy 4, 3, Paul says, the time will come when they
will not endure some doctrine. He was the same person who called me a year and a half ago to tell
me that he has left the church. CGI. And I said, why? He says,
okay, I'm going to a Sunday church now, and in my church are the two witnesses of Revelation 11.
So I said to him back that time, I said, when you know for sure, tell me, and come and join you.
You see what we're dealing with brethren? It's comical, but it's serious.
Serious. They will not endure some doctrine, but after their own lust, shall they heap to themselves teachers, have itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. This is prophetic. It's going to happen.
So I'm saying to all of us in the body, Christ is coming to marry the church.
Are you ready? The church is going to be ready. Revelation tells us that the church has made ourselves ready. But as we, you as an individual,
Because this is not the church, it's just a part of this, a tiny part of the church. Are we going to be ready?
Are we going to be lovers of ourselves rather than lovers of God? Maintaining an outward appearance
of righteousness? Denying the transformative power of God's Holy Spirit?
Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof?
Is the bride coming to find The bridegroom waiting just as he goes away in a betrothal period and
then comes back to marry. Because that's the period we're in now.
What is he going to find? I would want to find,
I would want to see Christ comes and finding all of us just eagerly waiting for our change, for our transformation. From this fleshy body. To a spiritual body.
That eyes have not seen. And ears have not heard. What it will be like.
This body. That's what I dream for all of us. That we will. Regardless of what is out there.
You just have to hold on. Because Christ is coming. Christ came in the first advent.
To save sinners. And he promised a down payment. of the Holy Spirit for those who have confessed
Him as Lord, as the only name under the whole heaven by which we can be saved. And He gives us the
Holy Spirit as a down payment.

And when He comes, you know what He's looking for? Those with the Holy Spirit. Only those with the

Holy Spirit. Because if you don't have God's Holy Spirit, it says you are none of His.

So we have to ensure that the Holy Spirit is nurtured, Because we are in the womb now, in the church, and we are being nurtured, ready to be born again in the kingdom of God.

Not born again yet, to be born again when this body change from what it is now into something glorious. So brethren, the call to the church, to all of us, is to prepare to meet your bridegroom.

But the important phase of it is right now. Right now we're in that phase.

And these things are going to come upon us. So we have to be ready to deal with them when they

come. May God bless you in your walk.