***Lesson Eleven***

**1 Thessalonians 2:19**

**The Imminent Return of Christ**

**1.** In 1 Thessalonians 2:19 Paul refers to ***the coming* of the Lord Jesus**. The word ***coming*** is the Greek word *parousia* (#3952). What does this word mean and what does it refer to?

**2.** What other passages in Scripture refer to the *parousia*?

**3.** In regard to the Lord’s ***coming***, there is much symbolism found when comparing the events surrounding the Lord’s coming and the Jewish wedding tradition. Explain the significance of the following parts of the Jewish Wedding tradition and their symbolism in Scripture.

 **a.** First of all, what is a **betrothal?**

 **b.** The **ceremonial cup**

 **c.** The **ritual cleansing of the bride**

 **d.** The giving of **a bridal gift**.

 **e.** The preparation of the couple’s new home

 **f.** The coming of the Bridegroom’s party to take the Bride to the wedding.

 **g.** The period of 7 days of seclusion

 **h.** The **marriage supper**.

**4.** One of the strongest arguments in favor of the **pre-tribulational rapture** is **the doctrine of imminence.** What is this doctrine and why does it support the pre-trib view?

**5.** Many Christians believe that Matthew 24 describes events that the church will have to endure. Is this correct? Is the church in view in Matthew 24? Explain.

**6.** In 1 Thessalonians 2:19 Paul speaks to his Thessalonian readers as if they already understood his references to the **crown rewards** and **the *coming of the Lord Jesus***. Is it reasonable to expect that they would have already known the meaning of these two significant points? If so, why does Paul refer to them?