

## Maranatha

*Maranatha* is a transliteration into Greek letters of an Aramaic phrase. The noun, *mar*, is combined with a form of the verb "to come." The word division *marana tha* would give the rendering "Our Lord, come!" and is used by Paul in 1 Corinthians 16:22:

If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha. (NASB)

Paul's usage links the phrase to a curse and the outlook is clearly of the end times. Paul is calling upon God to conclude God's redemptive work begun in Jesus Christ.

A similar thought is found in 1 Corinthians 11:26:

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (NASB)

The similar idea again in Revelation 22:20:

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (NASB)

In the early church the phrase "*marana tha*" was sometimes used by Christians at the end of written documents. The expression was also inscribed on the walls of some catacombs. The uncertainties of living in a pagan world and at times even persecution may have encouraged Christians to desire the Lord to come quickly. Also, the realization of the blessings of an eternal life in heaven could have brought forth a longing for the Lord to come.

Today with less persecution and more modern conveniences Christians may not often think of the sharp distinctions between our life on earth and the life to come in heaven. We should long to be with the Lord and, thus, for the coming of Christ!

**"Our Lord, come!"**

Excerpts from:

"Maranatha" by Max Wilcox in The Anchor Bible Dictionary, volume 4, Doubleday, 1992, page 514.

Family of God: A Study of the New Testament Church, by Batsell Barrett Baxter, Gospel Advocate, 1980, p. 164.

## L2L 2012 is now underway!

Lads-to-Leaders (L2L) at Germantown has started the 2012 year! We enjoyed the Kickoff Banquet last night and we are looking forward to another great year!

Wayne Shappley, a member at Germantown and grandfather of 5 L2L Germantown participants, gave a great keynote address! Thanks to Archie Vest, who was our MC, and to Jason Speed, Zachery Shappley, Quinn Smith, Mark Conder and Joey Markham for their part in the program.

Thanks to everyone who prepared food and performed the setup and cleanup. Janet Smith and Lynn Gray did another excellent job in the coordination of the banquet!

If you were not able to attend the banquet, registration forms are on a table in the south hallway. Registration forms are due to the Dailys on or before September 25. The registration forms include:

- ⊗ Registration Fees Form - one per family
- ⊗ Adult Registration Form - one per adult staying in the hotel
- ⊗ Student Registration Form - one per L2L participant staying in the Opryland Hotel (forms required for 2nd grade and under, but no fee unless participating in a medal event).
- ⊗ Hospitality Suite Form - one per family if your family will be eating in the Hospitality Suite

Be involved in L2L 2012!

## Leading the Assembly

Another Leading the Assembly class is being formed!

### **To men and young men of the congregation:**

This is a practical how-to class in which you can increase knowledge and gain experience in leading the assembly during worship services.

Class sessions will include a lesson on an element of worship, examples of leading the element and time for the class participants to practice leading the element. After attending this course the class attendees will have prepared examples for use in leading the assembly during worship services and devotionals. The elements of worship which will be covered in class are:

Reading Scripture  
Leading Prayers  
Comments and Prayers at the Lord's Table  
Comments and Prayer for the Contribution  
Also - new for this class: Preparing a Devotional

Days and times for the class sessions will be determined at a later date; suitable for as many participants as possible. Please contact Carl Porter or Glenn Daily, if you are interested.

### **Also, to the parents of our young men:**

Leading the Assembly is an informal method to prepare our young men for an important leadership role in the church. Let's equip our sons to lead the assembly. Add your son to the list today!

## What 2 Watch 4

September 25

**L2L Registration**

Forms are due to Dee or Glenn Daily for L2L 2012.