



Food For Thought: Are You Ready?

*"I will come back and receive you unto myself,
That where I am, you will be also."*

~John 14:3

I love my yard at this time of the year. Spring has sprung, and my wife is finished planting. The Spring rain and the fertilizer has all our gardens in full bloom and full of beautiful flowers - living testament to all the hard work that she puts into them and God's grace. The first of the flowers to emerge this year were the daffodils and lilies. One flower, the Easter Lilly, has long been associated with remembering the death and resurrection of our savior, Jesus Christ, and is one of my favorites

History, mythology, literature, poetry and the world of art are full of stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of the Easter Lilly. Often called the white-robed apostle of hope, it was found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's crucifixion. Traditional folklore has it that beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by banking their altars and surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

It's now summer, and I am enjoying my golf season. It is usually around this time of year that I am haunted by a couple of conversations that I had with a Pastor friend of mine during a couple of golf outings not too many years ago about Eschatology – the end of times. It still comes up when we happen to meet at funerals and weddings. Its that same topic that Pastor spoke on several times this year.

He asked me if I was ready- if Christ came back today. Was my spiritual house in order? I didn't quite know what to make of those statements as I had never really thought about it. At the time we started these conversations, I was a newly re-born Christian just starting out on his path with God being asked by a Pastor if I was ready for the end of times. I really didn't know how to answer that question then. I do now.

I think that the subject of a second-coming of Christ has caught the imagination of many people over the past years thanks in part to the series of novels written by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins in their Left Behind Series. Even if you haven't read the books, I am sure that you have at least thought about it.

Although the stories in the Left Behind series were fictional, a lot of the situations in the story-lines were founded on scripture – Tim LaHaye is an evangelical Christian minister. The novels remind us that the Second Coming and what follows it were very important parts of Jesus teaching.

There are about three hundred references in the New Testament alone on the second coming of Christ – that is one in every thirty verses. I found an article on the internet by a Scottish Pastor on the subject that said that the doctrine of the return of Christ is “like a lofty mountain that dominates the entire landscape of the New Testament.”

Christ said that He would come back for us – either at the end of the world when His feet once again touch terra firma or at the moment of our death. Christ said in John 14 that: “I will come back and receive you unto myself, that where I am, you will be also.” The promise of the Gospel, the promise of Christ's death on the cross, the promise of his presence here today, the promise of the hope of his return is that you and I will be, resurrected to eternal life with him.

One day it is really going to happen. Probably it will be a day just like any other day. The day you have heard about, read about, even sung about. The day you thought about, maybe worried about, the day you've probably known about for many, many years.

One day it's really going to happen. Are you ready, is your family ready? It is never too late to get your house in order.

Your entire life has been leading up to this moment, to this most important of all events. There were so many things during your life that you thought were important, but so few of them seem important right now.

One day it's really going to happen when the angel selects a book that has your name on it, and you silently watch as the book of your life is opened. And it will be up to you to determine how your story will end. If you're not ready for that day, there is not a thing in this world, not one single thing more important than you being right with God.

Will it be the most awful, horrible, most frightening day of your life because you know that you're not ready to stand before the Lord? Or will it be the most glorious, most wonderful day of your life as you joyously look upon the face of the One who saved you by His grace?

One day it really is going to happen.

Are you Ready?

Just some Food for Thought