

# **THE HOPE AND THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor's Bible Hour – May 4, 2008**

**Tabernacle of Praise – Pastor G. Richardson**

[www.topmanteca.org](http://www.topmanteca.org)

1. **The Return of Jesus for His Church is the hope of every saint of God.**

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

**Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;**

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1Jo 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

2. The doctrine of the Second Coming is one of the most important doctrines in the New Testament. It is mentioned in the New Testament more than 300 times.

3. The Saints of God do not look forward to death but rather to the coming of the Lord.

2Co 5:4 For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

4. Death is an enemy and at Christ's coming we are raised from the dead and shout victory over death and the grave.

1Co 15:55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

## **THE SECOND COMING BRINGS JOY AND ANTICIPATION TO THE CHURCH**

### 1. **The Blessed Hope:**

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

### 2. **It is a Comforting Hope:**

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

### 3. **A Lively Hope:** Not a dead hope gathering dust on the pages of history but the hope is still alive today!

1Pe 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pe 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

### 4. **A purifying Hope:** There is no doctrine that will sanctify a believer as much as this hope of seeing Jesus.

Jud 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the

## **THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH**

### 1. **Heaven is our destination:** “Looking for a city”

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

**Heb 11:14** For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

Heb 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

## 2. **A Rock Solid Church:**

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Mat 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- a. **There is no power that can overthrow the church,** Thousands have been martyred but the church still grows and is alive. No amount of persecution or opposition can destroy the church. Hell itself cannot prevail against the church. The church is indestructible. Fire cannot burn her, bloods cannot drown her, tempests and storms cannot mover her. Just built her upon the rock and will overcome all the powers of hell thrown against her.

**Heb 12:22** But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Heb 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

- c. **It is a Glorious, Victorious Church:**

**Eph 5:27** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

**1Jo 4:4** Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

**1Jo 5:4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.  
**1Jo 5:5** Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

### **THE WARNING TO THE CHURCH**

1. **Be Ready!** Jesus is coming for those who are ready, not those who are getting ready. The attitude of the New Testament saints was “Even so come Lord Jesus”

Mat 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

2. **Be Anticipating His Coming:**

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

3. **Don't let your heart be overcharged with this world:**

**Luk 21:34** And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Luk 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Luk 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

**Luk 17:28** Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

Luk 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all.

4. **Pray Always:**

**Luk 21:36** Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Jud 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Jud 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

1Jo 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

**THINGS THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM**

**1Co 2:9** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

**Rev 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

1. The description of this eternal home is given in the twenty-first chapter of Revelation. It is called New Jerusalem, a city foursquare. The glory and the beauty of his city exceeds anything that has been seen in this world.

**WHAT A GLORIOUS FUTURE WE HAVE BEING IN THE CHURCH**