

Fundamentals Of The Church

The Second Coming

(Mt 24:36-44)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fundamentals Of The Church."
 - a. Finished our lessons on the Godhead.
 - b. This morning we will be looking at "The Second Coming."
3. The End Time
 - a. This is often call the "End Times."
 - b. As we will see there is a lot of misunderstanding among many today.
 - c. However like always God gives us that which we need to understand His Word.
 - i. **I Co 2:10-16**
4. Let us examine God's Word to see that which is expected of us to know concerning Christ's Coming.

I. Many Have Tried To Predict Christ Coming

- A. We saw last week this reality
 1. There have been hundreds of predictions concerning Christ's coming back.
 - i. Ellen White, Hal Lindsey, Harold Camping...
- B. Why this nonsense is harmful to the cause of Christ
 1. This continuous false flow of predictions does nothing but fuel skepticism.
 2. There are many people that glorify God not because of these things.
- C. God never gave any "signs" of Christ return
 1. **Mt 24:36** "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."¹
 2. **I Th 5:1-2** "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night."
 3. **II Pt 3:10a** "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night..."

II. God Has Promised Christ's Coming Again

- A. Jesus said He would come back
 1. **Jn 14:1-3** "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."
- B. The angels promised Christ would come back
 1. **Ac 1:11** "who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.""

¹ All scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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- C. The apostles promised His return
1. **I Th 1:9-10** "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."
 2. **I Th 4:16-17** "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."
 3. **He 9:28** "so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."
- D. Concerning the coming of Christ again...
1. "according to one Bible scholar, there are well over 1000 references to the Lord's return." (What We Believe And Why "The Second Coming Of Jesus" by Higginbotham, Steve [sermon outline])

III. God's Promises Concerning Christ's Coming

- A. There will be a final judgment at His coming
1. **Mt 25:31-46** "**When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.** 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' 41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' 45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (emphasis is mine)

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2. **II Th 1:5-10** "which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us **when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.** 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 **when He comes, in that Day,** to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed." (emphasis mine)
- B. The earth will be destroyed at Christ's second coming
 1. **II Pt 3:10-12** "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?"
- C. So let us consider what that means
 1. If Christ is going to judge the righteous and unrighteous at His coming, and He is - **Mt 25:31-46; II Th 1:5-10**
 2. If Christ is going to destroy the world and the universe at His second coming, and He is - **II Pt 3:10-12**
 3. If everyone at the judgment is going to be judged, and they are - **He 4:13; Ro 2:16**
 4. Then there will be no earthly kingdom set up by Christ because all will be judged & the world will be destroyed.
 - i. The "new heavens & new earth" are simply a term to describe a change.
 - ii. Notice in **Is 65:17-25** that this cannot be heaven because you have "sinners" in there vs 20.
 - iii. Notice in **Rv 21** that this cannot be heaven because you have the bride of Christ being shown to John "after" the new heavens and new earth were spoken of happening (vs 1, 9-10).

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IV. God's Expectation Of Us Before Christ's Coming

- A. We don't know when Christ will come back for a reason
 - 1. That reason is because we are to be ready, righteous, always.
 - i. **I Th 5:3-10** "For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."
- B. We are to be ready in that we are preparing for heaven here on earth
 - 1. We are given time to prepare for worshipping God.
 - i. **Ro 12:1** "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." (NASB95)
 - ii. **Rv 4:8** "The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. **And they do not rest day or night, saying:** "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!""
 - 2. We are given time to strive for perfection.
 - i. **II Pt 3:9** "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."
 - ii. **Mt 5:48** "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."
 - iii. **Ec 12:13** "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person." (NASB95)
 - 3. We are given time therefore to learn to love our brethren.
 - i. This means putting their soul first.
 - a. **Ga 6:1-2** "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."
 - ii. This means wanting to be with each other.
 - a. **He 10:25** "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
 - 1. If we don't want to be together to worship God on earth every second we can what makes us think that God will give us that opportunity in heaven?

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CONCLUSION

1. Naismith wrote concerning Dr. Horatius Bonar, "Dr. Horatius Bonar, as he drew the curtains at night and retired to rest, used to repeat to himself the words, as if in prayer, and certainly with expectancy, "Perhaps tonight, Lord!". In the morning, as he awoke and looked out on the dawn of a new day, he would say, looking up into the sky. "Perhaps today, Lord!" He expected the Lord to return at any moment..." (Tan, P. L. (1996). Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times. Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.)
2. Here is the question for each of us this morning...Are we anxiously awaiting the coming of the Lord or are we hopelessly desiring for His patience in coming?
 - a. I hope you are anxiously awaiting it.
3. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**