

THE SOON RETURN OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Hebrews 10:37: For yet a little while, and He Who shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Ladies and Gentlemen, There is no subject in God's Word that has borne any more ridicule than the Return of Jesus Christ.

Some years ago there was a businessman who had been listening to a preacher in Little Rock, Arkansas, who was talking about the Lord's Coming. He was walking down the street from his broadcast on his way back to his church. When the businessman who knew him saw him coming, he began to look up in the sky, put his hand over his head, peek, and look. The preacher looked up and said, "What is the matter?" He said, "I was looking to see if Jesus was peeking His head around one of the clouds — I heard you talking about it." He was ridiculing the preacher and being scornful.



But hasn't this always been true of the supernatural? Hasn't this always been true of people who do not believe — first of all — that there is a God? They do not believe the simple story of the Fall of man; that God gave His Son; the Virgin birth; that Jesus was God manifest in the flesh; or about His sacrificial atonement at Calvary; or that He is coming again. No, it hasn't changed one bit.



God did make man, and we are in a fallen race. He did send his Son, and Jesus bore our sins in His Own body on the tree. He came out of the tomb the third day and ascended unto the Father where He sits at the right Hand of God to make intercession for the believer. And I not only believe it, but I know it!!

His redeeming power has taken place. It's too late for you to come to me and say He is not coming, because He saved me, He forgave my sins, He gave me His Spirit within, He has answered my prayers, and He has redeemed people who have fallen into sin. He has kept all of His Promises, and I am sure He is going to keep His Promise to come back!

Why does the devil hate this message so much? Why does he fight it so? Well, you know why. Because, first of all, Jesus said, "I am coming back." And the devil doesn't love God's Word, and the devil's crowd doesn't love God's Word. Also, because the Scripture has recorded it, and I read:

1 John 3:3: And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

Do you believe Jesus is coming? If so, remember He said: *“Purify yourself, even as He is pure”*. If you really believe — not just by word or by lifting your hand, but in your heart — that God’s Word is True, that His prophecies are fulfilled, and that on some ordinary day Jesus could come, you would surely purify yourself! You would cleanse your mind, your body, and your spirit, and you would be busy about the Master’s business.



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

Such a moment — such a minute — the Son of Man is going to come! And if you really believe that, then you will be ready, looking and longing for the Lord’s return.

(Just between you and me — it would be all right with me if the Lord would come right now. There is only one reason I want to stay around a little longer — there are so many people who are not ready.)

Thank God that today, while that song was being sung, the witness of God came to me, and in my heart I rejoiced that I am ready if He would come right now. But there are a lot of others who are not ready. That’s why I pray, try to preach the Word, and ask the Holy Spirit to let people know He is coming, and call them to dedication and repentance. That’s the only reason I want to wait awhile.

There are those who come and say, *“We have heard that stuff from the time we were little children, but He hasn’t come yet.”* They are fulfilling the Prophecy of God’s Words. It says that scoffers would come and say, *“Why does the Lord delay His coming? Where is He? I have heard this since I was a child.”* This is one of the Prophecies that the Bible said would happen.

Paul wrote in:

Romans 13:11: And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our Salvation nearer than when we believed.

Now is the time for The Lord to come. Get up. Rouse yourself. Don’t sleep in your spiritual life any longer.



Romans 13:12-14:

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

1 John 2:28: And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His Coming.

Satan wants to keep up unprepared. Satan does not want us to believe God's Word. Satan does not want us to be ready, and he will do everything in his power to keep us from being ready. This is a trick of the enemy.



Jesus gave a Parable about 10 Virgins — 5 were wise and 5 were foolish. All were waiting for the bridegroom, but the 5 foolish virgins did not bring any oil for their lamps.

Matthew 25:5-13:



5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.



Then those without oil — those who have left their lights go out — ran to get oil, but when they came back and knocked on the door, they were not permitted to enter. They were left on the outside.

Let us rejoice and be glad — we who are ready — and give honor to Him for the marriage of the Lamb is come and His Bride, which is the Church, hath made herself ready.



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

And certainly He is coming in an hour when men, women, boys, and girls are going their own way.

Now would Jesus make all these statements, would He tell us to be ready, would He speak to us and say, “*Watch – look – be ready – wait – expect My return*” ? Would He do this, would He tell us a lie, and not come back?



I don't believe there is anyone in this room who believes Jesus would lie to us. Two hundred and eighty-seven times in the New Testament alone, references are made to the Return of Jesus. Be ready. Watch for His return. He is coming back again. We are told that 287 times!

How can you and I not expect Him to keep those Promises? He *will* come, rest assured!

There will also have to come a moral, spiritual awakening and revival before the Lord comes. We are going to be looking for Him; we are going to be preaching that He is coming. And every man who is preaching revival and seeing a spiritual work done in the world in which we live, are men who believe Jesus is coming.



Show me a man who is standing in a pulpit, but he denies Jesus is coming; that man will also deny the virgin birth, the resurrection, and all of these Biblical truths. But the man who believes the Bible to be God's Word is expecting Jesus to come.

The Christian who has been born again by the Spirit of God has the witness that He is soon coming. But a great moral and spiritual awakening is taking place in

the world today. It is not taking place in one or two churches — there is the cry going out, *“Behold, the Bridegroom cometh. Go ye out to meet Him.”*



Bless God, I'm glad I've got my ticket. I am prayed up, packed up, and ready to go up if He comes right now! I am ready. And if He doesn't come, He is going to find me busy doing His work until He comes. For we are to occupy until He comes!

Luke 19:13: And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

I intend to stand my ground, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and be a redeemed person right down here in the devil's territory until my Lord comes — and He is coming soon. And know this — that scoffers will come in the last day, scoffers walking after their own lusts, and saying, *Where is the promise of His coming, for since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. I have heard this over and over. You are an old fogey. You are old fashioned and out of date.*” But I want to say to you that I would rather believe Jesus than you any time.

2 Peter 3:3-7:

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the Day of Judgment and Perdition of ungodly men.

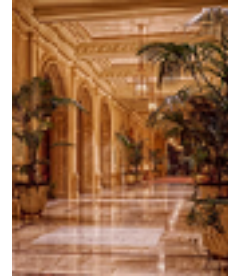


John 14:2: In My Father's House are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Jesus said it. I believe it. And that settles it.

He is preparing a mansion – a home for you and me. He says so. And He says; “*I am going to come again, that where I am, there ye may be also.*”
It is a prepared place for a prepared people.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.



You prepare by receiving God’s plan of Salvation — Jesus Christ. **There is no other way to be prepared but to receive Him as Saviour, become born again, and be put into the family of God.** Then you will have the Spirit of God. If you don’t have the Spirit of God, you are not going up when He comes.

You may belong to a Church, turn over a new leaf, and go through some form and ritual, but the Spirit is what is going to catch you away. Did you hear what I said? You can take a magnet and put it over match sticks, but they don’t move, but if you put it over pins or needles, they will cling to it. The Spirit of Christ that is in us is going to cause us to be caught away when the Lord comes, and those without the right metal are going to be left behind.



“*One shall be taken and one shall be left*”, the Bible records:

Luke 17:34-36:

34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Prepare for eternity by reading the Bible, praying, receiving Jesus Christ, and being active in Christian service, because if you say you love Him and keep not His Commandments, the truth is not in you.



1 Thessalonians 4:16-17:

16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

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.

The Book of Revelation, recording the words of Jesus, says: “Behold, I come quickly.”

Revelation 3:11: Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 22:7: Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the Prophecy of this Book.

Revelation 22:12: And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Jesus says,

Luke 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.



Mark 13:32-37:

³² But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

³³ Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

³⁴ For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, Who left His house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.



³⁵ Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

³⁶ Lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping.

³⁷ And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Matthew 24:35: Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away.

Jesus promised it!

Then, as Jesus was caught away and a cloud received Him up into the Heaven, there were two men in white apparel that appeared:

Acts 1:11: Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven.



Every man, woman, boy, and girl in this place who believes the Word of God must believe the Scripture — that the same Jesus Who is caught away is coming back, for the Bible says so.

1 Corinthians 11:26: For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.

Jesus is coming.

You and I are to expect His sudden Return. Jesus is coming. I expect Him to come in my generation. I expect Him to come while I am still here. And I expect to be caught away. But I will tell you one thing: if my heart quit beating right now, I would have the jump on you, for when He comes, those who are asleep will rise first; then those which are alive will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17:

16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

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.

Jesus is coming. I believe you believe it, because the Bible teaches it. I know you believe it because the Holy Spirit bears witness. The important thing is:

ARE YOU READY?

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