

## **Jesus Will Come Again For Me**

It has been the case that men have mocked those who trust in God. It was so with Lot, Isaac and with Jesus. Skeptics harden their heart from sin and refuse to believe that Jesus is coming. Yet, God will not allow the world to last forever and so He calls all men everywhere to repent (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus is coming (2 Peter 3:13-18) and since Jesus calls us to be lights in the world (Matthew 5:16), Peter reminds us to have the proper attitude toward God and that we hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6). Thus, it is by following Him and His word that we glorify God and have a taste of the glory, that which the redeemed will receive eternally in Heaven. Therefore, we must believe that Jesus will come again and that His coming is a promise, personal and planned.

### **Jesus' Coming Is A Promise**

A promise is a commitment of loyalty or something to be relied on. But, why did Jesus make a promise with us in the first place? Sadly, there are some who throw the love of Jesus right out the window and say that no such promise exist. They ask for justice, but do not believe it will ever come because they do not see God. They ask, "Where is the promise of his coming?" (2 Peter 3:4) and mock Christ by their actions, living however they desire. They do not believe anything will happen and so, they forget that without God's support, the world would fall into ruin, societies would collapse, there would be no life because all would cease to exist. Now, the mocker's question was not the result of ignorance, but of doubt. They argued that all things just continue since the beginning and forget that (1) God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9) and (2) that man can walk the wrong path (Jeremiah 10:23).

We can be assured that if Christ said He

would return, you can trust it. But, the Thessalonian Christians forgot this and when their loved ones died, they were shaken by skeptics who were teaching them that those that died had no hope. It is awful to think that even though Jesus came down from Heaven and spent His days speaking to humanity (Hebrews 1:2), people tempt others to doubt God. Paul taught that the greatest incentive for faithfulness in life is our belief in the coming of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10). And to this day, while scoffers demand to know when the promise will ever be filled, we can be unshaken and untroubled (2 Thessalonians 2:2-3). Therefore, the second coming should inspire us with hope and fill us with joy. But, it should also stir in us to be watchful and patient.

So, when I hear people speak of the Lord's promise as a void, do I listen to man or do I listen to Jesus? We can be confident that Jesus is coming because He loves us and is coming to reward you if you are faithful because we cannot get to the Father any other way except through Him. So, while there is no sign in the sky of the Lord's return, just as there was no warning for the doubters in Noah's day when the waters came crashing upon the earth (Matthew 24:35-39), we must believe and have faith, that the promise of Jesus coming again is real and that it will be fulfilled.

### **Jesus' Coming Is Personal**

Sometimes I must admit, I never understood the phrase, "It's not personal, it's just business." If this is true, then how come we take business so personal? Jesus's business was to save souls (Luke 19:10). So, if saving us was not personal then why did He weep with us (John 11:35)? Why would Jesus seek after us, rescue us from everlasting destruction and show us a way to have remission of sins (baptism), if He was not here for the individual? In John 14:1-3, we read of the Lord's tender

plea for us to believe in Him as the Jewish nation had believed in God. Jesus was essentially saying, "I will take care of you, I am concerned for you, I am interested in you, I prefer to do things for you because I love you." Thus, Jesus left and prepared a place for us. He left us positive thoughts in a world filled with suffering, pain, sorrow, crying and dying (Revelation 21:4). He left to make Heaven a place where there are no consequences of sin and where God's hands produce pleasure forevermore. Therefore, we have no reason to be troubled and we should stop letting our heart be disturbed or bothered and believe in Jesus.

Jesus enlightens us about the eternal home in stating that in His Father's house are many mansions and if this is not true, Jesus said, I would tell you it is not true. Yet, the world is trying to make us believe that Christ lies. However, God cannot lie (Titus 1:2) and since He cannot lie, Jesus explains the necessity of His departure and assures them that He is the way and the only way to the Father (John 14:6) Thus, to know Christ is to know the goal and the way to Heaven. He directs our way because He is the Living Way and He is coming again to receive or to join with Christians and to reside in the same place where He resides. This is very personal!

### **Christ's Coming Is Planned**

Many times we attempt to make plans and it seems that things never go smoothly. Added housing expenses, unplanned projects and even weddings can be quite unpredictable. But with God's plan, it has always been perfect. Paul speaks in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, gentle, loving words and assures Christians that when a person dies, they are not annihilated. Instead, they are sleeping and not to worry or be upset like those who have no hope. We know that death indicates separation and we are dead in sin if we are not baptized.

Therefore, it is important to realize that the way you meet the Lord is the way you spend eternity. And John proclaims to us, "blessed are they that die in the Lord" (Revelation 14:13). So, why do you think those who have died are going to miss out, Paul asked? Christ died and being raised again is the hub of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). So, Paul's message in Thessalonica centered on this point (Acts 17:3,4). All of the preaching in the Book of Acts is centered on this fact. Likewise, we can read in 1 Corinthians 15:16-24 of more information about the resurrection. In addition, since the Son of God was resurrected from the dead (Romans 1:4), when He comes again, Jesus will take all His faithful saints and return home with Him. Now, while some are obsessed in wanting to know what the body is like after death, what is a body? Is it your hands, is it your arm, or your eyes, is it your hair? This is just what we see on the outside. Yet, there is also a body on the inside. So, it makes no difference what the outside of the body will look like, God will give the righteous a body that pleases Him (1 Corinthians 15:42-50).

One who denies the resurrection is not using the mind God has given him. When we consider Matthew 25:1-13, the ones who did not go to the wedding feast don't know what they missed. The ones who do not go to Heaven, will know what they missed. Make no mistake, the Lord is coming again with a shout! (1 Thessalonians 4:16), He is coming with His angels (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) and there will come a time, ". . . in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment (John 5:28-29). And when He comes again, there is nothing we can do about it, there is nowhere we can hide, there is nothing that will shelter us. On the day Christ comes again with the full might of Heaven, He is coming to bring His friends with Him, Christians, who share

affection for each other, who trust each other, who want to be with each other. He is coming to separate us from the world, to claim us as His own, for us to be exclusively His.

So, when we consider the Word of God, how could we not believe that Jesus will come again? While some refuse to believe this as the truth, Christians can be confident that He is coming again. We can build our faith by being full of hope. He will come because He loves us, because we love Him, because He has promised to personally come and to receive or take us as His own. But, when exactly He will come, we have no idea (Mark 13:32-33). So, what or should I say, who is going to take Heaven away from us? Even though people may make our lives miserable and almost unbearable, we must never give up. We must rest assure that Jesus will come again for the righteous child of God. We can stand on these promises of Christ our King. God's promises will not fail and as long as we remain righteous, He will send His Son to come again . . . even for you. That where He lives, we will live.

Paul said, "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... Comfort one another with these words" (2 Thessalonians 4:17-18), Jesus will come again for me.

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-West Lectures, "God's Precious Promises." To hear or view the complete lesson go to [www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm](http://www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm) or contact the 39th Street Church of Christ 15331 East 39th Street Independence, MO 64055-4240 USA

## *God's Precious Promises...* **Jesus Will Come Again For Me**

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