

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE READING:

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 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” (Acts 1:9-11).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ or the Return of Christ is the foundational belief of all Christians that one day Jesus Himself will return to earth just as He promised.
- B. **“Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.” – Anonymous**
- C. “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen (Rev 1:7).
- D. “And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory” (Mark 13:26).
- E. “The primitive church thought more about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ than about death or about heaven. The early Christians were looking not for a cleft in the ground called a grave but for a cleavage in the sky called Glory. They were watching not for the undertaker but for the uppertaker” – (Alexander Maclaren).
- F. Based on our scripture reading, over two thousand years ago, Jesus left His disciples on earth as He ascended into heaven. Two angels promised the disciples that one day Jesus would return in the same way He ascended – Bodily and Visibly. The promise of the two angels is still true today – One day “this same Jesus” will return (“shall so come” – v. 9) and it could be today.
- I. **The Promise of Christ’s Second Coming**
- A. **Jesus promised to return to take Christian Believers to heaven to be with Him forever.**
- “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. 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” (John 14:1-3).
 - “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself” (Philippians 3:20-21).
- B. **Zechariah prophesied that the Second Coming would take place on the “Mount of Olives” (Zech 14:4).**

II. The Certainty of Christ's Second Coming

A. Christ "cometh in the clouds; and every eye shall see Him" (Rev 1:7).

Clouds represent the presence and Glory of God.

- "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" Matt (24:29-30).

B. The Timing of Christ's Return

1. It will be unexpected

He will come as "a thief in the night" (1 Thess 5:1-2; 2 Peter 3:10).

- "But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up" (Matt 24:43).
- "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Rev 3:3).

2. It will be swift and sudden (Matt 24:40-42)

There will be no opportunity for afterthought, another chance to repent or bargain for salvation.

3. It will be imminent

The Second Coming could occur at any moment – at any time of the day or night. No man knows the day nor the hour, not even the angels, nor does Jesus know; Only God the Father knows when Jesus will return to earth.

- "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt 24:36).
- "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father" (Mark 13:32).
- **Christ may come before your sermon is finished**
The great preacher F.B. Meyer once asked D.L. Moody, "What is the secret of your success?" Moody replied, "For many years I have never given an address without the consciousness that the Lord may come before I have finished."
- **Always be ready to meet the Lord**
A mother was explaining, to her little girl, the death of her father. The mother said: "God has sent for your father and will send for us, but I do not know just when." Finally, the little girl said: "If we do not know just when God is going to send for us, do you not think we had better pack up and get ready to go? God might send when we are not ready."

III. The Second Coming of Christ will be Personal

Jesus Christ Himself will return to earth – Bodily and Visibly.

- “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” (Acts 1:11).
- “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” (1 Thess 4:16).
- “For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matt 24:27).
- Every Chapter in **1 Thessalonians** ends with a reference to the Second Coming of Christ (1:10; 2:9; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23).

IV. The Second Coming of Christ will be Glorious

Jesus will return “in a cloud with power and great glory” (Luke 21:27).

- The backdrop of Heaven is pitch dark, without any major light from the sun and moon. And then, suddenly, as quickly as the flash of lightening, the most brilliant focus of light known to man appears. The Shekinah Glory of God will shine in the person of Jesus Christ as He appears to the world. The Son of Man is there, in the clouds, having returned in Great Power and Glory just as He said He would” (POSB).

V. The Second Coming of Christ will be a Noisy Event

The Lord shall descend from Heaven accompanied with a shout, a voice and the trump of God (1 Thess 4:16).

- “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised **incorruptible**, and we shall be changed (1 Cor 15:52).
- “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).

VI. What to do While we Wait for the Lord’s Return

A. We should live Holy and Godly lives

- “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy (1 Pet 1:14-16).
- “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12).
- “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom 12:2).

B. We should look forward to the Second Coming of Christ

- “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).
- “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20).
- “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” (Heb 9:28).

C. We should be praying for the Second Coming of Christ

- “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (2 Pet 3:12).
- “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Rev 22:20).

D. We should be watchful, on guard and ready for the Second Coming of Christ

- “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matt 24:44).
- “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. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Pet 3:4, 13).

POINTS TO PONDER:

A. The Second Coming of Christ is a true event to come – Be ready for it and sincere about Jesus.

B. We are to live a life of spiritual alertness and moral purity. The time is short – Our Salvation is nearer than when we first believed. Jesus is coming to take us home to the Father. Each day is a day closer to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

- “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” (Rom 13:11).

C. Knowing that the Second Coming of Christ is imminent should govern our behavior – the way we think and act at all times, in every situation and with everyone.

D. Participate in Communion – It shows the Lord’s death till He come again.

- “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come” (1 Cor 11:26).

MEMORY VERSE:

“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” (1 John 2:28).

CONCLUSION:

A. Maranatha

In the twinkling of an eye, He is coming, Like a thief in the night, He'll be there
We will meet Him in the air in all His glory, Maranatha, He is coming, He'll be there
Maranatha, Maranatha, Yes, Jesus is coming again
Maranatha, Maranatha, Yes, Jesus is coming again, He's coming again

If He came here today, would you be ready? Would you know for sure that He's your Lord?
By accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, We will live with the King forevermore
Maranatha, Maranatha, Yes, Jesus is coming again
Maranatha, Maranatha, Yes, Jesus is coming again, He's coming again

In the twinkling of an eye, He is coming, Like a thief in the night, He'll be there
We will meet Him in the air in all His glory, Maranatha, He is coming, He'll be there
Maranatha, Maranatha, Yes, Jesus is coming again
Maranatha, Maranatha, Yes, Jesus is coming again, He's coming again

B. Christians should have no fear of the Second Coming.

C. Unsaved – Do not put off accepting Christ as your Savior – He could come at an hour when you do not expect Him to do so (Matt 22:44). You can be ready for the Second Coming as God has provided a way of escape from eternal damnation. That way is Christ Jesus (John 14:6). It is Jesus who grants forgiveness of sin and Salvation with the promise of Eternal Life (John 3:15-16; Eph 2:8-9).



Matthew 24:44

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).