

Jesus: The Returning One

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Introduction

- A. The Holy Bible centers around Jesus Christ and can be summed up in three short sentences
 - 1. He is coming - **Genesis to Malachi**
 - 2. He is here - **Matthew to Acts 1**
 - 3. He is coming again - **Acts 1:11 to Revelation**
- B. The second coming of Christ ought to be a subject of absorbing interest to each one of us
- C. The Bible speaks with great emphasis about the certainty of the return of Christ
 - 1. The Old Testament contains about 280 prophecies about Christ
 - 2. At least 370 New Testament verses refer to His second coming to judge men
 - 3. There are 7,959 verses in the New Testament
 - a. One out of ever 25 touches on the theme of Christ's return
 - b. The doctrine of the second coming of Christ is found in 23 of the 27 New Testament books
- D. A subject mentioned so frequently in the Bible must not go unnoticed, but rather studied and believed
- E. For over 1900 years Christians have been searching both the Heavens and the Scriptures looking for the return of the Son of God
- F. In this lesson we are searching the Scriptures for its inspired teachings on the second coming of Christ

I. The Assurance of His Coming

- A. It was an exciting, puzzling, sad day when Christ left this earth
 - 1. His disciples had only recently recovered from the shock of His death but were now revived in spirit when He was raised from the dead
 - 2. Now, all of a sudden He returns to Heaven in a miraculous way
 - a. The disciples were puzzled and amazed as they stood looking steadfastly toward Heaven as he went up
 - b. Their mental questions were answered. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them - **Acts 1:10-11**
- B. Jesus, Himself, often made reference to the fact that He would return a second time
John 14:1-3 - Matthew 16:27 - Matthew 24:27 - Matthew 25:31 - Matthew 26:64
- C. Jesus Christ was fully aware that He would die, be buried, be raised from the dead, and ascend back into Heaven
 - 1. He was also aware that He would come again, and thus He taught His disciples
- D. The Bible is God's Word, and it does assure us of His coming
Hebrews 9:27-28 - Acts 1:11 - Revelation 22:20
- E. We can rest assured from the Word of God that Jesus Christ is coming again

II. Concerning the Time of His Coming

- A. No one knows but God - **Matthew 24:35**
- B. **Matthew 24:37-42**
 - 1. The regular routines of life will be going on as usual—eating, drinking, marrying, going to school, going to ballgames, working, shopping, vacationing, etc., when Jesus comes
 - 2. Some will be prepared and some will be unprepared. We are taught to watch and be ready

III. The Manner of His Coming

- A. He is coming in person - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**
- B. He is coming as he went back to Heaven - **Acts 1:11**
- C. He is coming in visible form - **Revelation 1:7**
- D. he is coming without warning - **1 Thessalonians 5:2-3**
- E. He is coming with power and great glory - **Matthew 24:30**

IV. What Is Christ Coming For?

- A. He is coming to raise the dead, both good and bad - **John 5:28-29 - Acts 24:15**
- B. Although the resurrection covers both the good and the bad, the dead in Christ shall rise first - **1 Thessalonians 4:15-17**
- C. He is coming for the judgment, to reward the righteous and pass formal sentence against the wicked. The matter of judgment is mentioned more than 1000 times in the Bible
 - 1. The judgment day is an appointed day, and Christ is to be the judge - **John 5:22 - Acts 17:31 - Romans 14:12**
 - a. It won't be a question of what our believed, but what we believed
 - b. No one can hide behind their parents, children, friends, or minister
 - c. Personal accountability implies personal responsibility
- D. He is going to deliver the kingdom up to the Father when He comes the second time - **1 Corinthians 15:22-28**

V. Then Comes the End

- A. A number of times Jesus speaks of the "end of the world." - **Matthew 13:40 - Matthew 13:49**
- B. Friends, we are not talking about science fiction now . . . we are talking about the real thing
 - 1. This world is going to end . . . it is going to be destroyed - **2 Peter 3:10**
- C. For the second coming of Christ everyone should be ready, watching, and praying. This was taught and emphasized by Christ and His apostles over and over

Conclusion

- A. What is the conclusion of the whole matter?
 - 1. Know this . . . that Jesus Christ is coming again whether you are ready for Him to or not
- B. What will happen when that God-appointed time comes?
 - 1. There will be a great shout from the voice of the archangel - **1 Thessalonians 4:16**
 - 2. The trumpet of God shall blow with a great loud noise - **1 Thessalonians 4:16**
 - 3. The Lord Jesus will appear in the clouds and every eye shall see Him - **Revelation 1:7**
 - 4. Those who were Christians when they died will be resurrected first and will be standing with Jesus in the clouds - **1 Thessalonians 4:14**
 - 5. Christian still alive on the earth will then ascend up into the air to join the presence of Christ and the faithful of ages past - **1 Thessalonians 4:17**
 - 6. Concerning those who are not Christians - **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**
 - 7. Notice what else will happen. The heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements and the earth will melt with fervent heat - **2 Peter 3:10**
- C. Knowing that all these things are certain . . . they are going to happen . . . listen to the words of the apostle Peter in **2 Peter 3:11-14**
- D. One final question then the lesson is yours. "Would you be willing for your life to end in the same condition in which your soul is ending this service?"
- E. Invitation