

FACTS ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

TEXT:

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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: 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1Thessalonians 4:13-18)

INTRODUCTION:

- 1) This lesson is about something that shall effect every person.
- 2) In fact it will effect even those persons already deceased. It is the second coming of Christ.
- 3) A lot of speculation is given relative to this subject (some of it is out right error.)
- 4) We want to deal with the facts - only what the Bible says.
- 5) The Bible has a tremendous amount to say about this subject- God wants us to be informed. (ready, prepared).

I. CHRIST IS COMING (FACT!)

- 1) Jesus - the Son of God- promised.
 - (1)“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh,” (Matthew 24:44)
 - (2)“Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.” (Matthew 24:46)
 - (3)“The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,” (Matthew 24:50)
 - (4)“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)
- 2) It was announced by angels. “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)
- 3) The apostles taught it. “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.” (2Peter 3:10)
- 4) The manner of His coming is described.

(1) **Personally** - "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:" (1Thessalonians 4:16)

(2) **Visibly**. "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." (Revelation 1:7)

(3) **Audibly**. "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:" (1Thessalonians 4:16)

(5) **With the clouds**. "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)

(6) **In flaming fire taking vengeance**. "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;" (2Thessalonians 1:7-9)

II. ANOTHER FACT - THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED WHEN HE COMES.

1) "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves 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 damnation." (John 5:28-29)

2) The living will be changed.

(1) "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (1Thessalonians 4:13)

(2) "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 .wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1Thessalonians 4:17-18)

3) Christ's resurrection proves ours.

(1) "And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:" (Romans1:4)

(2) 1Corinthians 15, death is not the end.

(3) "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (2Corinthians 5:1)

III. FACT - HE WILL EXECUTE JUDGEMENT.

1) Judgement is a sobering thought. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" (Hebrews 9:27)

2) Evil will be punished.

(1) "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;" (2Thessalonians 1:7-9)

(2)“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” (Matthew 25:46)

(3) “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10)

(4)“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15)

3) But the righteous will be rewarded!

(1) "joy of thy Lord" "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:" (Matthew 25::21, 23, 34)

(2) Indeed what a joy it will be!

(3) God will reward the faithful. "Fear none of those things which you shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2:10), "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2Timothy 4:6-8)

(4) "Look" (wait, anticipate) his coming. "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death." (Philippians 3:20)

IV. FACT: CHRIST WILL DELIVER UP THE KINGDOM TO THE FATHER.

1) The Kingdom was established just as prophesied.

(1)“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” (Daniel 2:44)

(2) “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,” (Matthew 3:1)

(3) “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17)

(4) “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.” (Mark 9:1) (see also Acts 2)

(5) “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;” (Colossians 1:23.)

3) At Christ's coming He will deliver the Kingdom up to the Father.

(1)“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall

be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." (1Corinthians 15:24-28) (need to be in the Kingdom).

(2) "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John3:5)

V. FACT: NO ONE KNOWS WHEN CHRIST IS COMING.

1) People have vainly speculated (Miller 1844, 1845, Russell 1914,1918, Rutherford, "**Millions Now Living Will Never Die**".

2) But no one knows when.

(1) "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 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. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 24:35-44)

(2) "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 25:13)

VI. FACT: THE TIME TO PREPARE IS NOW.

1) "Be ye also ready". "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matthew 25:42-46)

2) What a consolation to know that you are ready.

3) Have you obeyed the Lord in repentance and baptism? If you are erring have you been restored? If not when are you? Now?

CONCLUSION:

1) Review the facts.

2) Children of God should look forward to the second coming with confidence.

(1) "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. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." (1John 2:28-29)

(2) Are you ready?