

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST  
PART 5c-CHRIST'S RETURN  
2 JOHN 7-11; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-18

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Thus far we've looked at:

*HIS COMING WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE!  
HIS COMING WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS PERSON!*

**III. HIS COMING WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS TIMING!**

The Bible shows the rapture of Jesus is *imminent!* That means it can happen at any time! (*Vs 15*) ". . .*we which are alive. . .*"

Paul was looking for Jesus in His day! If Paul was looking for Jesus, then how much more should we be looking for His coming?

**A. The Time Is Not For Us To Know!**

*Acts 1:7—"And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."*

*Matthew 24:36—"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."*

*Matthew 24:42—"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."*

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

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

He may come before we are finished here this morning!  
He may not return for another 100 years!  
But the main point is this...are we ready for His return?

*The Time For Us Is Not To Know!*

**B. But He Will Come Back!**

*2 Peter 3:9—"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

**C. His Coming Will Be Sudden!**

As a thief in the night...totally unexpected.

*Matthew 24:37-39—"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 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, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."*

When Noah was building the ark and preaching righteousness to the people, he and his family were looking for God to bring a flood as He said He would do!

They made preparation for the day by following God's instruction to build the Ark!

But other people in Noah's day just went about their daily living in the usual way without any thought of the judgment that was to come!

Then one day the flood came, just as God had promised it would, and those who had laughed at the idea perished beneath the waters!

Today there are multitudes of people who pay no attention to the matter of the second coming of Christ!

**D. His Coming Will Be In Two Stages!**

1. First there will be the rapture, or the catching away, of the believers in Christ. (*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*)

He is coming for us who are His own to keep us from the terrible time of tribulation which will come upon this earth.

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2. Then, after the seven years of tribulation He will return to this earth and establish His millennial kingdom.

He will destroy the Anti-christ, bind the devil, and reign with the saints on this earth for a literal one thousand year period.

*HIS COMING WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS PERSON... HIS PROMISE...HIS TIMING...*

**IV. HIS COMING WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS POWER AND GLORY! (VS 16-17)**

**A. We Will Hear The Sounds That Will Call The Saints Home.**

1. The Shout Of The Saviour!
2. The Voice Of The Archangel!
3. The Trump Of God!

**B. Then, We Will See Our Saviour Who Will Change These Corruptible Bodies Into One Like His Own!**

*1 Corinthians 15:51—"...we shall all be changed. . ."*

*1 John 3:2—"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."*

**V. HIS COMING WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS SALVATION! (VS 16-17) "...the dead in Christ. . ." "...we which are alive. . ."**

It is clear that Paul was addressing Believers!

**A. Those Who Have Accepted Christ Will Go.**

1. Dead.
2. Alive.

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**B. Those Who Have Not Accepted Christ Will Stay.**

1. Dead—Until The Final Judgment.
2. Alive—To Go Through The Tribulation Period.
  - a. **2 Thessalonians 2:7-12**
  - b. *Matthew 24:21—"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."*

**CONCLUSION**

Jesus is coming again!

He is coming according to His Promise.

He is coming according to His Person.

He is coming according to His Timing.

He is coming according to His Power and Glory.

He is coming according to His Salvation.

Are you ready for His coming? Are you saved? Are you right with God?

Are you serving Christ?

Are you LOOKING FOR HIS COMING?

Are you LIVING FOR HIS COMING?

Are you LONGING FOR HIS COMING?