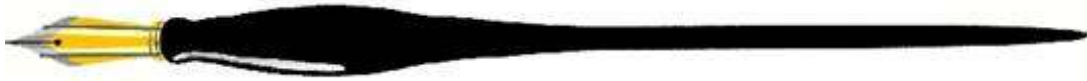


# The Messenger 2012

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## What We Know About the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

### Introduction:

There are two lessons that must go together. "The 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ" and "The End of the World" Lord willing, in the next issue of the Messenger we will consider the second.

For this week let's consider everything that we know about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ. Remember always that men's minds are full of imagination and emotion but all that we truly know we know from the scriptures. We do not want to base anything on assumptions or information concluded outside the word of God.

Like most Bible subjects there are lots of ideas about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ. Some say that He has already come and left again; some say that He will come to establish an earthly kingdom and another new way of living; and some believe that He will only come back to bring an end to this world and to gather the souls of mankind to judgment. We need to sort through the clutter and establish a proper understanding about this very important subject.

### We Know He is in Heaven Now

There is no mistaking the present location of our Savior Jesus Christ. There are so many clear indications within the Scriptures that there can be no other plausible conclusion. After His earthly life, death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven to take His place of Divine Authority over the kingdom, the church (Ephesians 1:20-23).

There are many references to His ascension into Heaven. His prayer before going to the cross he said, "*I have glorified you on earth...and now, oh Father, glorify Me with Yourself*" (John 17:4-5). After His resurrection, when Mary tried to prevent His leaving, Jesus said, "*Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'*" (John 20:17). After instructing the Apostles to wait in Jerusalem for sign from Heaven, Jesus was taken up at Bethany, "*Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven*" (Luke 24:51). As words of comfort Jesus said He was going to His Father's dwelling to prepare us a place, by

saying *“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.”*

To this day Jesus is waiting in Heaven, at the right hand of the Father, for the time, to be revealed by only the Father, for His return (Matthew 24:36)

### **We Know He Will Return**

It is vitally important that we know Christ will come again. Again called on the scriptures for our proper understanding we consider that Jesus personally promised He would return in John 14:3. The angel, who appeared as He ascended, promised He would return (Acts 1:9-11). John declared the same in Revelation 1:7 and Paul also promised it in 1 Corinthians 15:23-24. The scriptures speak of the Lord's return without question the words of Hebrews 9:27-28 declares with certainty that Jesus will return.

The scriptures tell us that His coming will be at a time we cannot know (Matthew 24:36). He will come without further warning—*“Like a thief in the night”* (1 Thessalonians 5:2, 4; 2 Peter 3:10). We know at the moment of His return there will be a shout and the trumpet of God will sound—*these are not warnings; they are proclamations* (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:15). One thing that we clearly understand is that Jesus is not returning to walk on the earth, rather we will rise and meet Him in the sky (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Yes, Jesus will return again. We must be actively prepared for this time to come.

### **We Know we must Actively Prepare for His Return**

There is no doubt that the first century disciples look for the Lord's return daily (1 Corinthians 1:7-8). The same promise of His return stands today, are you looking for Him every day? We must be very careful not to say, *“Jesus won't come today”* (Matthew 24:45-51).

We know Jesus was here; we know He ascended to Heaven where He is now; we know that He is going to come again. We must be found *“watching”* (1 Thessalonians 5:1-10). We must be found faithful (Colossians 1:23) and this means that we are continuing in the faith (John 15:1-8; 2 Peter 3:18); grounded and unwilling to compromise the truth (Matthew 7:21; James 1:17-25); and not moved from the hope of gospel. We must not be willing to depart for even a moment (Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:19-21; Hebrews 2:1-3). We cannot continue to make excuses for sin—*we need to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless* (2 Peter 3:14).

There is no reason for this day to be dreadful in your mind. We know that Jesus will return must be prepared.

### **Conclusion:**

In God's eternal plan His desire is that those who, by their own choice, love and serve Him, can be with Him in His eternal dwelling (1 Thessalonians 4:17). God's hope for this was realized in our creation (Genesis 1:26; Acts 17:24-27). This created world is suited for God's purpose in seeking such who were willing to worship Him (John 4:24). Are you using your time in life to prepare? (1 Peter 1:13-21)

The scriptures are the last warning that we will receive. Some must believe God will let them know before He sends Jesus (expecting “signs of the times”). We are clearly told that all things will be normal when He returns and the warnings have been given; we looked at them in this lesson.

Today is the day; now is the time. If you are not yet obedient to the Lord, heed the warnings. If you are a Christian, are you remaining steadfast? Today, the promise of Christ’s return is still true and His hope of salvation is too. Obey the gospel today, be prepared. ~tss

## **The Gospel Plan**

**HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16**

**BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6**

**REPENT – CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9**

**OPENLY CONFESS — JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD**

**Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37**

**BE BAPTIZED — FOR THE REMISSION OF YOUR SINS**

**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21**

**LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39; 1 Peter 1:6-9**