



THE SECOND COMING

Why do you think it is important to study and discuss the Second Coming?

Why do think some people are hesitant to discuss this topic?

Voicing Concerns:

- *Scoffers and skeptics raise questions about the certainty of the Lord's return for His own, i.e. 2 Peter 3:3-4, "Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. * They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." However, for the Church of Jesus Christ to become lethargic and careless because the long-promised chain of end-time events has not yet begun is unconscionable.*
Why?

The Assemblies of God preaches a clear message that Jesus is coming soon, and we will preach that message without apology, no matter how long the Lord delays His coming.

We must never forget Peter's two explanations for what may seem like a long delay in the fulfillment of divine prophecy.

1. God measures time differently than man does. "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (2 Peter 3:8).
2. **God's delay gives opportunity for more to come to repentance through His patience.** 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

The Assemblies of God is committed to the reality that Jesus is coming soon, no matter what we may feel about God's delays.

- Another concern: An inordinate fixation on prophecy and predictions about the future.
 - ✓ If we study Scripture about end-time events merely out of curiosity, we are little better than those who seek out horoscopes and seers to learn what they can about the future.
 - ✓ **The believer's** interest in prophecy is for the encouragement it provides through the unalterable promise that God has already won the victory and we simply wait for His timing as to when the events will be played out.
 - ✓ Our focus must be on Jesus, the centerpiece of Bible prophecy, not on the events alone.

Truth#1: Jesus will come to rapture His people. We need to be ready.

1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

- ✓ The word *rapture* is from the Latin translation of "caught up" in verse 17. It describes the catching up of the living saints that accompanies the resurrection of dead believers.
- ✓ "The Rapture of the living saints is the first phase of what is commonly called the Second Coming. ... This event is the blessed hope Paul mentions in Titus 2:13 ...while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,
- ✓ At this time, Christ comes and snatches away His church without actually setting foot on the earth.

What stands out to you in the 1st Thessalonians scripture?

The Rapture is described as the Blessed Hope that Paul mentions in Titus. As a Christian, what is that hope to us?

Truth#2: Christ may return at any moment.

This is the next major prophetic event on the horizon.

This event has been dramatized by Christian movies and books such as *A Thief in the Night* and the *Left Behind* series.

Christians differ on the details, what's clear is this:

1. **Christ could return at any moment.** Even if He doesn't return this year, multitudes of people will still die and go into an eternal state.
2. We must do all we can to reach the multitudes.
Believers must live with passion and urgency, anticipating the Lord's return. And let Jesus have the last word: *"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man [Jesus] is coming"* (Matthew 25:13).

How has the rapture been depicted in movies and books? Do we have any insight to what it may look like? (Matthew 24:37-44). "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

If Christ can return at any moment what does that mean for you?

What are the dangers of trying to predict the date of Jesus' return?

Truth#3: Be ready by reaching souls.

- ✓ **Being ready for the Rapture is not just about you, as an individual, being ready. It means there is an urgency to reach the lost, those who are at risk of losing their soul.**
- ✓ **In Luke 19:13, a certain nobleman "called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come." That King James Version rendering might make you think He was saying, "Hold the fort" or "Defend the faith."**
- ✓ **Another version (NKJV), states "Do business till I come."**
- ✓ **We are not supposed to be just holding ground or just being on the defense all the time. We are supposed to be about the business of winning souls.**

How does knowing that Christ may return at any moment change the way you see the lost?

How does it or should it change the way we engage the lost, our lost friends, lost family, lost coworkers?

We tend to not speak of “the hereafter” due to the many theories or speculations concerning this Scriptural truth.

However, we need to speak up because there are too many “so called scholars” and “intellectualists” that are giving their thoughts on the subject to the next generation of people.

Remember, if it is not Scriptural, be skeptical and “non-recepticle” (non-receptive) of words or thoughts about hell, heaven, and the end times.

*Heaven is real..Hell is real! The 2nd Coming is real!
We need to be telling the truth to ourselves, family, friends, and those in whom we meet on a possible one-time basis!*

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