

# **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

## **Study #2**

**Readiness is a necessary characteristic for every person!**

- For our job,
- For our family,
- For our salvation,
- For our home going!

**What did you learn from last week's lesson?**

**Jesus will come to rapture His people!**

**Truths from this fact:**

1. We need to be ready.
2. Christ may return at any moment.
3. Be ready by reaching souls.

**Another great truth:**

**Truth#4...Christians will receive new bodies at the time of the Rapture.**

*“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:51, 52).*

- ✓ **Both the living and the resurrected dead will receive transformed bodies.**

**Corruptible** = That which may decay and perish; the human body; Capable of being bribed; Subject to decay or impurity; Capable of being corrupted, or morally vitiated; susceptible of depravation.

**Incorruptible** = not subject to decay or dissolution: incapable of being bribed or morally corrupted.

- ✓ **Since our earthly, corruptible bodies are not compatible with God's eternal kingdom, our bodies must be changed to new, incorruptible ones.**
  - ✓ *Corruptible bodies on earth while we are living; but, will*

**not be found in God's kingdom.**

✓ **Incorruptible bodies will be the ones that will be eternal.**

**Where in scripture can we find a glimpse of what our new bodies will be like?**

**Sneak Preview of our new body!!!**

**We have one by looking at the resurrected body of our Lord Jesus.**

After His resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days in the presence of people.

The resurrected Christ was not in a disembodied, purely spiritual state.

He had a body...a touchable, visible body.

Thomas found out....to let us know.

Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands.

Put your hand here in my side. Stop being an unbeliever and believe." John 20:27

**Jesus' resurrected body was a real body, real enough to:**

- Walk on the road to Emmaus with others...even conversing with them!
- Appear in the form of a gardener
- Eat breakfast with the disciples at Galilee.

**At the same time, Jesus' body was not a clone of His earthly body.**

Mark tells us that Jesus "appeared in another form" (Mark 16:12).

**While He was the same, He was different.**

So different that Mary Magdalene, His disciples on the sea, and His disciples on the path to Emmaus did not recognize Him.

Though He invited Thomas to touch His body, He passed through a closed door to be in Thomas's presence.

**Our new bodies, like Jesus'...will be unlike any we have ever imagined.**

**Will our bodies have some of the scars of our lifetime....Jesus did have His...but, I don't think we will have ours.**

**In heaven's accounting, only one wound is worthy to be remembered. (My opinion...speculative, not Scriptural)**

**That is the wound of Jesus.... "By His wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24**

**Four (4) things to remember:**

**1. Your body, in some form, will last forever.....Respect it!**

It is, after all, the temple of God (see 1 Cor.6:19).

Be careful how you feed it, use it, and maintain it.

You wouldn't want anyone trashing your home; God doesn't want anyone trashing His.

2. ***For a season, your soul and spirit will be in heaven while your body is in the grave.***
3. ***The seed buried in the earth will blossom in heaven.***
4. ***Your soul, spirit and body will reunite, and you will be like Jesus!***

## ***Why is it important that we receive a new body?***

***Sin cannot enter heaven. The blood of Jesus cleanses us for transformation to our new home when our time comes to go home.***

***An incorruptible body is the only body that can enter heaven.***

## ***What happens to those who have already died?***

***What happens to Christians between their death and Jesus' return?***

***The church in Thessalonica probably asked such a question...***

***Paul told them, "we want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope" (1 Thess. 4:13).***

*For the Living Bible states.... "I want you to know what happens to a Christian when he dies so that when it happens, you will not be full of sorrow, as those are who have no hope. **For since we believe that Jesus died and then came back to life again, we can also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him all the Christians who have died**" (1 Thess. 4:13-14).*

***We want to know for certain that the soul and spirit of our loved one goes immediately to be with God.***

***Can we believe it? According to the Bible we can.***

***The Bible might not shout it out....but it whispers it.***

***Listen...to a firm voice as it is whispered with an authoritative spirit of certainty:***

- ***"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far." Philippians 1:21-23***  
*Paul's message here suggests an immediate departure of the soul after death.*

- **“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”...or Paul’s words in everyday language: “We really want to be away from the body and be at home with the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 5:8.**  
Paul’s message here...describes a phase after our death and prior to the resurrection of our bodies. During this time we will be “at home with the Lord.”
- **The thief on the cross asks Jesus for mercy and states, “remember me when you come into your kingdom” Luke 23:42.**  
The thief is praying that he be remembered in some distant time in the future...when the kingdom comes.  
**Jesus answered.... “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” (v.43)**  
The primary and straight-forward message from Jesus shows God’s unlimited grace...with the knowledge of immediate translation of the saved into the presence of God.  
The soul of the believer journeys home, while the body of the believer awaits the resurrection.
- **As Stephen was on death’s door being stoned to death, he saw “heaven open and the Son of Man standing at God’s right side” (Acts 7:56).**  
**As he was near death...with his last breath...Stephen said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” (v.59).**  
It is safe to believe...that Jesus made good on His promise!  
**Though the body of Stephen was dead, his spirit was alive.**

**The whisper from the throne room and through out the scriptures is...when we draw our last breath, our soul and spirit are in the presence of Jesus himself.**

**Truth #5: There will be seven years of terrible suffering.**

**Those who are left behind because they do not know Jesus will face a life filled with unspeakable horrors.**

- ✓ “With the saints removed from the earth, a time of suffering will come upon the whole world.
- ✓ The Tribulation is a period of 7 years, the ‘70th week’ of Daniel (Daniel 9:27).
- ✓ The last half of the Tribulation period is called the Great Tribulation.”\*

**Note: Though not all Christians believe that the Rapture will take place at the beginning of the Tribulation, this is “the common belief in the Assemblies of God.” This “pre-tribulation**

**... view best satisfies the biblical teaching that the Rapture is always imminent — it could happen at any time and will have no immediate warning or announcement (Matthew 24:42-44; Mark 13:33-37).”\***

***We will study the Scriptures on the Tribulation Period and what we can expect to happen during this seven year period at a later date.***

***Three things you need to know today about the Tribulation Period:***

- 1. You don't want to experience the Tribulation in the corruptible body phase.***
- 2. You don't want your loved ones and friends to experience it.***
- 3. A glimpse of hell will be revealed in the Tribulation period.***

**Truth #6:**

**The second coming of Christ will be completed when Christ returns to Earth after the Tribulation.**

- **At this time, Christ will appear physically. His feet will appropriately touch the Mount of Olives, the place from which He ascended to heaven. This touches off a whole series of events:**
- **After the marriage between the raptured saints and the Lamb in heaven (during the Tribulation), Christ, the Groom, goes forth to claim all of His kingdom.**
  - ✓ He rides on a white horse, followed by the saints, also on white horses (Revelation 19:11, 14).
  - ✓ It will be a sight of great wonder and majesty as Christ descends with His followers to reclaim that which Satan has temporarily wrested from His hand.
  - ✓ The ensuing conflict between the world of righteousness and the world of darkness is called the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16).
  - ✓ At the conclusion of the battle, defeated Satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20).”\*

***If you want to study and learn more about today's lesson, look in your Bible to find the answers to the following questions.***

- ✓ *As followers of Christ what will our role be in this final conflict?*
- ✓ *How should the knowledge of the tribulation and second coming of Christ challenge our walk and witness?*
- ✓ *What are the possible dangers of adhering to a mid-trib or post-trib belief?*
- ✓ *During this time of tribulation who will be set up as ruler of a one world government?*
- ✓ *Many have speculated the identity of the Antichrist throughout history. What are the dangers of trying to predict the identity of the antichrist?*