

What Will Happen in the Future? Lesson 1 – The Return of Christ – Part 1

Introduction:

- God's promises about the future are a source of great _____ for us as Christians.
- For a Christian, hope is a confident expectation, because we can be _____ that God's promises will be fulfilled.
- The certain hope of Christians is the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ!

***Titus 2.13** Waiting for **our blessed hope, the appearing** of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

- The certainty of this future hope is based upon the work of Christ has already accomplished through the _____.

***1 Cor 15.3-4** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that **He was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures.*

***1 Cor 15.22-23** For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ shall all be made alive**. 23 But each in his own order, **Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ**.*

- Since Jesus was raised from the dead, we can be certain that He will _____ to raise us from the dead.

***1 Peter 1.3** Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, He has caused us to be born again **to a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance** that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.*

1. The _____ of Christ's return.

- Christ's return has been _____ by God's people since the earliest days of the Old Testament.

***Heb 11.13-14** These all died **in faith**, not having received the things promised, but **having seen them and greeted them from afar**, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that **they are seeking a homeland**.*

Heb 11.16 *But as it is, they desire a **better country**; that is, **a heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for **He has prepared for them a city**.*

Heb 11.24–26 *By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **25** choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. **26** He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, **for he was looking to the reward**.*

Job 19.25-26 *For I know that **my Redeemer lives**, and **at the last He will stand upon the earth**. **26** And after my skin has been thus destroyed, **yet in my flesh I shall see God**.*

- This is the very _____ that we New Testament believers hold so dear!

Titus 2.13 *Waiting for **our blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Rev 22.20 *He who testifies to these things says, "**Surely, I am coming soon**." Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus!***

A. His coming will be _____.

Matt 24.44 *Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is **coming at an hour you do not expect**.*

- No one knows _____ Christ will return except for the Father.
- Since the time of Christ's return is sudden and unknown, Christians should prepare for His coming by being _____ doing the work of Christ.

1 Thess 5.2 *For you yourselves are fully aware that the **day of the Lord** will come **like a thief in the night**.*

- The sudden coming of Jesus should make unbelievers _____, because on that day they will receive God's wrath.
- The sudden coming of Jesus should fill believers with hope and _____, because that day will be a day of deliverance and rewards.

B. His coming will be _____.

1 Thess 4.16 For the Lord **Himself** will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

John 14.2 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to **myself**, that **where I am** you may be also.

- Jesus will not send some other messenger or representative to _____ us and _____ us home to Heaven.
- When Jesus appears again, we will appear along _____ Him in glory.

Col 3.3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **When Christ, who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

C. His coming will be _____.

- Every time Jesus appeared after He was raised, He appeared in His _____ that still had the scars from the cross.

John 20.26–27 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "**Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.**"

- After the resurrection, Jesus still had a body that Thomas could _____.
- Jesus was easily _____ by His disciples.

John 21.12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are you?" **They knew it was the Lord.**

Acts 1.11 Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? **This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.**

- Jesus will return with the _____ resurrected body with which He ascended into Heaven.

D. His coming will be _____.

- Jesus told His disciples to not believe those who would say that Christ had come _____ and was hiding from public view.

Matt 24.26 So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ **do not believe it.**

- Jesus said that at His coming He will appear like a flash of lightning—sudden and visible to _____.

Matt 24.27 For as the lightning comes from the east and **shines** as far as the west, **so will be the coming of the Son of Man.**

Rev 1.7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, **and every eye will see Him**, even those who pierced Him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen.

2. The eager _____ for Christ’s return.

A. We should look forward to Christ’s return because will see Him _____.

- When you _____ someone deeply, you long to see them in person.

1 Pet 1.8 **Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,**

1 John 3.2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, **because we shall see him as he is.**

- Forever and ever, we will _____ upon the One who suffered and died in our place, and we will declare with the saints in Heaven "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain."
- We will behold His _____ forever, and it will be our eternal joy!

Isaiah 33.17 **Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will see a land that stretches afar.**

B. We should look forward to Christ’s return so we will be _____ to live holy.

1 John 3.2-3 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. **3 And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.**

- Knowing that Jesus is coming again should make us desire to live holy, because we should want to be _____ to see Him at any moment!

Titus 2.11-13 For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 **training us to renounce ungodliness** and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and **godly lives** in the present age, 13 **waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.**

- Paul says that there are two things that should motivate us to live godly lives:
 - The grace of the Gospel shown to us in _____ is where we find power, strength, and motivation to live holy lives.
 - And part of the Gospel that causes us to live holy is the _____ of the coming of Jesus.

2 Tim 4.7-8 **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but **also to all who have loved his appearing.**

C. We should look forward to Christ's return so we can be _____ to allow God to bring judgment.

- Christians should not be _____ when unbelievers mistreat or persecute them.

John 15.18 **If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.**

2 Tim 3.12 **Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**

- The promise of the return of Christ will enable us to be patient and leave the _____ to God.

Rom 12.19 **Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."**

James 5.7 **Be patient therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.**

Rev 6.10 **They cried out with a loud voice, O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on earth?**

Rev 6.11 Then they were each given a white robe and **told to rest a little longer**, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers **should be complete**, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

2 Thess 1.6–8 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to **grant relief** to you who are afflicted as well as to us, **when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance** on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

- **As we patiently wait for the return of Jesus, we are commanded to _____ our enemies and return good for evil, leaving the judgment to God.**

Rom 12.14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rom 12.20–21 “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Conclusion

- The promise of Christ’s return should fill us with _____.
- The promise of Christ’s return should fill us with _____.
- The promise of Christ’s return should fill us with a _____ to live well pleasing in His sight.