

“Till He Come”
I Corinthians 11:26

February 7, 2016

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^A Hebrews 8:13
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^E Matthew 24:26
^F Matthew 24:27-31
^G John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
^H Revelation 21:1-4, 22-23, 27
^I Hebrews 2:3
^J 2 Peter 3:11

A. Preparation for His Table

1. Self-Examination

- a. by way of introduction this morning, let us consider a few of the ways that a believer should prepare himself or herself for partaking of the bread and wine that give a picture of Jesus Christ’s saving work
- b. the first is brought to mind by those words we read, “**But let a man examine himself, and having done that, then let him eat ... drink ...**”
- c. self-examination is a time of seeking to ensure that our attitude, our thoughts, our actions, our frame of mind are all suitable to this service – that we should partake in a worthy manner
 - (A) confessing sin and seeking the promised forgiveness and cleansing, so that we come to a holy service as a holy people
 - (B) relinquishing from our minds all the cares we faced yesterday and will face tomorrow, focussing instead upon our Lord, Jesus Christ
- d. we shall pause later this morning to permit each of us to engage in this needful, spiritual exercise.

2. Gratitude

- a. we also read these words of Jesus Himself, “**This is my body which is about to be broken for you ...**” (Weymouth)
- b. from which we should recognise that Jesus, in His desire to partake of this meal with His disciples – as He does in His Presence with us this morning – was knowingly and unswervingly headed to the cross
- c. with the same love that caused the Son of God to leave heaven’s glory to take on “the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin,” He allowed that body to be nailed to the cross and be punished for sin in our place, when He could have called 12 legions of angels to His aid
- d. we are moved to give this expression of gratitude, as in the words of the hymn-writer,

How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me–
Things so undeserved, yet You give to prove Your love for me?
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude–
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee. -{2}.

3. Meditation

- a. how many deep, spiritual truths there are for us to meditate upon concerning this ordinance!
- b. "This cup is the new Covenant of which my blood is the pledge." (Weymouth)
 - (A) everything which sealed and gave God's pledge to the Old Covenant was to be fulfilled within that day in Jesus Christ
 - (B) the Old Covenant was complete, even at that time being done away with "... becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear." (Hebrews 8:13)
 - (C) a reminder that Christ's work is finished, and when we trust in Him for our salvation, there is nothing further needing to be done
- c. but the truth upon which we shall meditate for a few moments, is found in those three little words used for our sermon title
- d. "Till He Come!"
- e. and do so under 5 questions: When? Whether? What? How? Why?

B. When? ... Is Uncertain.

1. Till He Come

- a. that is the translation found in the AV (1611, 1769), ERV (1881) and ASV (1901) – and to our ears it may sound strange
- b. so most modern translations have something like "until He comes"
- c. because with a singular subject in the third person, "he, she, it", we usually add an "s" at the end of the verb: "I love, you love, she loves"
- d. so, were those older versions ungrammatical? ... no way!
- e. by dropping off the "s" the older translators were showing that this verb was in what is called the subjunctive mood
 - (A) this is a form which has mainly disappeared from modern English
 - (B) it is used to indicate a false condition as in the words of the song: "If I were a bell, I'd go ding-dong ding-dong ding!"^{3}.
 - (C) or something uncertain, as "If I should come"
- f. Paul could equally well have written, "until He shall come", using the future tense; but instead he expressed it in Greek in the subjunctive
 - (A) does that mean it is false? No!
 - (B) does it mean that the Second Coming of Christ is in doubt? No!
 - (C) it is not the matter of His coming but its timing that is in question

2. Predictions

- a. many sects and cults have set dates in the past for Christ's return, and all have proven to be false; they are still doing it and are still wrong
- b. Jesus had this to say: "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time is." (Mark 13:32-33) – that's very conclusive,
- c. so that Paul wrote, "Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night." (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2)
- d. so we do not know when; but we can answer the question,

C. Whether? ... Is Unquestionable.

1. Jesus Said So

- a. Christ's coming again is not taught in one isolated passage, nor one section of the NT, such as Paul's epistles to the churches
- b. but in many places and by Jesus himself made many references to the "coming of the Son of Man" and similar expressions
- c. and perhaps the most touching and assuring is that which He spoke to His disciples when they were troubled by His imminent departure: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:3)
 - (A) making it clear that His coming death was but a preliminary
 - (B) it completed His work as the Lamb of God, taking away sin
 - (C) "Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth," (Philippians 2:9-10)
 - (D) so that He will return to complete His work as Lord of Lords

2. The Scriptures Say So

- a. "And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This

Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:9-11)

b. the manner of His departure confirms the reality of His return

D. What? ... Is Mysterious.

1. Charts

- a. there comes to my mind, either as a country church in which I was in many years ago of being fascinated by a chart, just underneath the ceiling, and around the entire sanctuary, that depicted with pictures, words and dates, the entire history of the world, from creation all the way to the new heaven and the new earth
 - (A) with the major events of the second coming laid out in order
 - (B) as if to challenge God to do it in any other way than they thought
- b. well those charts will pass away, along with the heavens and earth
- c. but the Father will carry out His plan as He sees fits, so that when we see it come to pass, we shall give all praise and glory to Him

2. A Mystery

- a. is a spiritual truth, which God makes known to us by revelation
- b. but is sometimes only understood when it comes to pass
- c. the Second Coming of Jesus Christ is such a mystery
- d. “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 imperishable, and we shall be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)
- e. a great wall has been placed between us and the future
 - (A) here and there a window has been struck out giving us a glimpse
 - (B) but the wall is mainly blank and we shall be taken behind it when the time is ripe to behold the glories of God

E. How? ... Is Spectacularly.

1. Not in Secret

- a. A few moments ago I mentioned sects and cults that have set dates for Christ return, awaited, and then defended their teaching by saying that it took place in secret and only the privileged witnessed it
- b. Jesus warned against those who would claim to be the Messiah come back to earth – many in the Holy Land and

elsewhere have made such claims –

- (A) “If therefore they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go forth, or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms (or, secret chamber),’ do not believe them.” (Matthew 24:26)
- (B) do not believe such lies, for

2. His Return

a. Jesus went on in that same passage to describe it

- (A) “For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the son of man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.” (Matthew 24:27-31)
- (B) there you have in a half-dozen verses, the tribulation, the second coming of Jesus Christ, and the rapture of the saints.

b. it will be the most spectacular event in all of earth’s history! and ours!

F. Why? ... Is a Consummation.

1. For God’s People

- a. It is our word of comfort: “Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1-3)
- b. It is our word of hope: “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

2. For God's Purpose

a. Christ's return will introduce the events bringing God's victory

b. from Revelation 21

- (A) "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."" (Revelation 21:1-4)
- (B) "And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb." (Revelation 21:22-23)
- (C) "and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Revelation 21:27)

G. Preparation for His Coming

1. To any unbeliever:

a. I must deliver this warning, "how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard," (Hebrews 2:3)

2. To the child of God

a. Peter had this to say in respect to these truths: "Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness," (2 Peter 3:11)

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AV Authorized (King James) Version of 1769
NAS New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NIV New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
WEY The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Some of the commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

Barnes – *Notes on the New Testament, et alia*, by Rev Albert Barnes, Gall & Inglis, Edinburgh
BM – *Biblical Museum*, Editor James Comper Gray, ca 1870
EBC – *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, MI:
EGT – *The Expositor’s Greek Testament*, Hodder & Stoughton; 1903
Kerux – The sermon & illustration data base compiled by Rev. David Holwick at the web-site, www.holwick.com.
RWP – *Robertson’s Word Pictures of the New Testament*, by Dr. A. T. Robertson

2. 'My Tribute,' by Andrae Crouch, © Lexicon Music, Inc. 1971

3. 'If I Were a Bell,' from Guys and Dolls, by Frank Loesser © August 14, 1950, the author