

The Promise: The Second Coming of Christ

Hebrews 9:27-28

INTRODUCTION:

- I. **Men, Appointed to Die Once (v.27a)**
 - A. **The nature of the appointed**
 - 1. Death is appointed for sure
 - 2. Due to sin (**Romans 5:12**)
 - 3. Due at a particular time
 - a) Is there a particular day in mind? Do we have control over that?
 - b) "To be reserved; laid up"
 - c) **Psalm 139:13-16**
 - B. **The finality of death**
 - 1. Obvious, life is over
 - a) One time
 - b) No reincarnation
 - 2. Opportunity is over
 - a) There are no postmortem chances at salvation
 - b) Since this is a close comparison to the finality of Christ's sacrifice, both the nature and purpose of Christ's atoning work would be in question if we compromise the finality in human death.

- II. **The Judgment (v.27b)**
 - A. **The nature of the judgment**
 - 1. Krisis
 - 2. Just
 - B. **The inevitability of judgment**
 - 1. **Acts 17:30-31**
 - 2. Uncertain death...certain judgment
 - C. **So, what happens at the judgment?**
 - 1. Clear distinction between the judge and the judged
 - 2. Separation
 - a) wheat & tares / sheep & goats
 - b) **Matthew 25:31-46**
 - 3. The believer
 - a) Will be judged
 - (1) Declared "guiltless"
 - (2) **1 Corinthians 1:4-9**
 - b) Works judged
 - (1) Righteous living estimated
 - (2) **2 Corinthians 5:10**
 - (3) **Romans 8:1**
 - 4. The unbeliever
 - a) **Romans 2:6-8**
 - b) Condemned to eternal punishment
 - c) **Hebrews 10:27**

III. **Jesus, Appointed to Die Once (v.28a)**

A. **Nature of the Appointment**

1. **Acts 4:27-28**
2. **Galatians 3:22**

B. **The Finality of His death**

1. **vv.25-26**
2. **Romans 3:21-26**

IV. **The Second Coming (v.28b)**

A. **When?**

1. Unknown, like a thief (surprisingly, not stealthy)
2. **Wayne Grudem** (Systematic Theology), *"[I]t is unlikely but possible that the signs have already been fulfilled, and therefore we simply cannot know with certainty at any point in history whether all the signs have been fulfilled or not. This position is an attractive one because it takes seriously the primary purpose for the signs...to intensify our expectation of Christ's return...With regard to the warnings to be ready...Christ could return at any time...and so we must be ready, even though it is unlikely that Christ will return at once (because it seems that there are several signs yet to be fulfilled)."*

B. **How?**

1. Physically & visibly
2. Publicly (every eye will see / ear will hear -- trumpet blast)

a) **Revelation 1:7**, *"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen."*

b) **1 Thessalonians 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."*

C. **What will he do?**

1. This is understood in light of what He WON'T do
2. He will judge
 - a) **John 5:25-29**
 - b) The righteous & unrighteous (as we've mentioned prior)
3. He will save
 - a) This is the full / final salvation
 - b) He is coming for those who He died for (the elect)
 - c) He is coming for those who eagerly await
 - (1) This is how you know you are elect
 - (2) What does waiting eagerly look like? (**2 Peter 3**)