

THE SECOND ADVENT
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

INTRODUCTION

- Christ has come and He is coming again!
- Some do not believe because they do not believe in the Christ. Some are professing believers, but are being choked by the love of this world. Some are believers and are too enamored with end-times speak and are borderline prideful on what they believe they've figured out.
- But for ALL OF US.... We must look forward to His coming in such a way that produces right living, right now!
- **BF&M - 2000**
 - X. Last Things**
 - *God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.*
- **NH Confession - 1853**
 - XVIII. Of The World To Come**
 - *We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.*
- **Abstract of Principles – 1858 (founding UBC Statement)**
 - XIX. The Resurrection.**
 - *The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God -- the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. At the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised.*
 - XX. The Judgment.**
 - *God hath appointed a day, wherein he will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when every one shall receive*

according to his deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life.

- **Philadelphia Confession - 1742 (1st American Baptist)**
 - Chapter 34 "Of the Last Judgment"**
 - *1. God hath appointed a day wherein he will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ; to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father; in which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon the earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds, and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.*
 - *2. The end of God's appointing this day, is for the manifestation of the glory of his mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of his justice, in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient; for then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fulness of joy and glory with everlasting rewards, in the presence of the Lord; but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast aside into everlasting torments, and punished with everlasting destruction, from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.*
 - *3. As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity, so will he have the day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come, and may ever be prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus; come quickly. Amen.*
- I. **The Promise of His Return (vv.1-5)**
 - a. **Personal & Physical**
 - i. **Matt. 24:44**, *"Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*
 - ii. **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."*
 - b. **Visible & Triumphant**

- i. **2 Thess. 1:9-10**, *“They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,¹⁰ when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.”*
- ii. **Rev. 1:7-8**, *“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 wail⁷ on account of him. Even so. Amen.⁸ **“I am the Alpha and the Omega,”** says the Lord God, **“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**”*

c. Sudden & Surprising

- i. **Don't know the Timing**
- ii. **No more information needed**
 - 1. For those Non-believers (**vv.2-3**)
 - a. Unwelcome
 - b. Surprise
 - c. Shocking
 - False Peace
 - False Prophets
 - False Security
 - d. Painful
 - 2. For the Believer (**vv.4-5**)
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Not a Total Surprise
 - c. Glorious
 - d. Relief

II. The Preparation for His Return (vv.6-11)

a. Focused Living (vv.6-8)

- i. **Wake Up**
 - 1. Beware and Be aware (false teachers, false peace)
 - 2. Alert (not just defensive, but forward)
- ii. **Remember Who you Are**
 - 1. Be distinct
 - 2. By nature & behavior

iii. Live the Gospel (v.8)

- 1. Alert
- 2. Faith
- 3. Love
- 4. Hope

b. Living in Future Hope (vv.9-10)

i. Delivered from Wrath

- 1. “Wrath” is not the tribulation. That’s inconsistent with the text. In fact it’s inconsistent with almost all references to God’s wrath in scripture. His wrath on sin is not temporal any more than our new spiritual life is temporal. A Holy God demands it.
 - 2. Wrath generally relates to condemnation due to disbelief – the Day of Judgment. For the believer the wrath of God was poured on the head of Christ.
 - a. **1 Thess.1:10** (Judgment Day), *“and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”*
 - b. **Romans 2:5,8**, *“5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.... 8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.”*
- #### ii. Delivered Unto Final Salvation
- 1. Secured in Christ (atoning work)
 - 2. Spiritual Warfare
 - 3. Fearless (in life AND death)
 - 4. **Phil. 1:21-26**, *“²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live*

in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again."

c. Living in Hope-filled Community (v.11)

i. Continue on...together (remember John 17)

ii. Submitting to His Will

- **James 4:15**, *"Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."*

iii. Living out His Plan

- **Phil. 3:13-15**, *"¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you."*

iv. Seeking His Joy in Others

- **2 Cor. 4:11-15**, *"¹¹For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you. ¹³Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God."*

CONCLUSION

As surely as HE came once HE is coming again!

Do you believe that?

If we believe it, we'll live like its true...sober, ready, pressing on in and with the gospel!

BENEDICTION

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ***24*** He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.