



**Chapman Church of Christ
2008 Lectureship**

“Let these sayings sink
down into you ears...”

Luke 9:44

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**“Every idle word that men shall speak,
they shall give account in the day of judgment”**

Lance Foster

PAGE 2

**“If any man will come after me, let him deny
himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me”**

John Pigg

PAGE 9

**“A man’s life does not consist in the
abundance of the things he possesses”**

Alex Bayes

PAGE 14

**“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and
his righteousness”**

Charles Leonard

PAGE 16

“I will come again”

Jimmy Bates

PAGE 18

IDLE WORDS AND THE JUDGMENT

Matthew 12:36, 37

Lance Foster

Introduction

1. One evening a lady was driving her eight-year-old daughter to her grandparent's house for an overnight stay. It was late, there was very little traffic. It was a peaceful ride. It was a far cry from the usual chaos of rush hour traffic. The daughter was deep in thought and said to her mother, "I have a question." Mother asked, "What do you want to know?" "Mom, when you are driving, are you ever the IDIOT?"
 - a. This illustrates how our children and others are listening to our words.
 - b. We must be careful what we say.
2. Our text is Matthew 12:36, 37.
 - a. The context: Jesus heals a devil-possessed person (v. 22).
 - b. The people were convinced Jesus was the Son of David (v. 23).
 - c. The Pharisees knew a miracle had happened. But, they refused to admit Jesus was good in doing so.
 - d. They accused Jesus of doing the miracle by the power of Satan.
 - e. Jesus goes into the discourse on blaspheming God, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 - f. Jesus says the Pharisees said their evil concerning Him because they were evil within (vv. 34-35).
 - g. Then Jesus takes it a step further: They will answer for blaspheming but also for every IDLE word they might speak.

I. WHAT ARE IDLE WORDS?

- A. "A -ergon"
 1. Ergon = deeds; a - the prefix added means without.
 2. Hence, without deeds; useless; inactive; idle; worthless.
 3. Arndt and Gingrich - a careless word which because of its worthlessness had better been left unspoken. ESV has careless.
 4. It is used of a barren tree; fallow land; the Sabbath

- day when no work could be done; of an idle man.
- B. Idle words are words spoken when one lets his/her guard down.
- C. The blasphemy of the Pharisees was an example of IDLE words.
 - 1. Their words were said when they let their guard down.
 - 2. Their words were said to mislead or deceive the people.
 - 3. Their words were said to do harm.
- D. These are the 3 rules to determine IDLE words.
- E. Pythagorus (the Greek philosopher) said, “Choose rather to fling a chance stone than to speak a chance word.” – Once the hurting or the soiling word is spoken nothing will bring it back, and it pursues a course of damage where ever it goes.

II. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WE SAY.

- A. “They shall give account...” - Held accountable.
 - 1. Same word in Mt. 18:23 - a certain king would make his servants stand accountable.
 - 2. Same word in Romans 14:12; I Peter 4:5.
- B. “That just slipped out...” “I didn’t mean to say that...” etc.
 - 1. Jesus revealed that our speech is a result of what is in the heart (vv. 34-35).
 - 2. The Pharisees’ false accusation concerning Jesus was the result of the evil in their hearts.
 - 3. Matthew 15:19 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”
 - 4. *We are responsible for what is in our hearts.*
 - a. Computer phrase - garbage in, garbage out.
 - b. Phil. 4:8.
- C. Idle words are not:
 - 1. Causal conversation with friends, etc....
 - a. If so, what about a mother who coos and talks to her baby when small?
 - 2. Innocent jesting, joking and levity.

- a. Pro. 17:22 “A cheerful heart is a good medicine; but a broken spirit drieth up the bones.”
 - b. Laughter gives a workout to your stomach and chest muscles, heart and lungs. It releases tension and creates a state of well-being.
 - c. Pro. 15:13 “A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, but when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.”
 - d. Pro. 122:25 “Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs down, but a good word makes it glad.”
- D. But IDLE words are spoken:
- 1. With our guard down.
 - 2. To deceive and mislead.
 - 3. To do harm and hurt.

III. SOME IDLE WORDS UNDER CONSIDERATION....

- A. Profane Swearing, Cursing...
- 1. “Warning! Adult Language- Viewer Discretion Is Advised.”
 - 2. No doubt the scriptures teach it is a sin to take God’s name in vain.
 - a. Ex. 20:7.
 - b. Penalty - death - Lev. 24:13-16.
 - 3. Yet, common cursing- four letter words, etc. are also condemned.
 - a. They are useless, worthless—hence IDLE WORDS.
 - 4. The Michigan Court of Appeals recently overturned a 100-year-old law which had in the past made cursing near women or children a crime.
 - a. It concluded that much of the population would be guilty.
 - b. A professional woman went on TV and said that cursing by pre-teens was o.k. and that parents should not worry.
 - 5. Eph. 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed

out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

- a. Edifies and ministers grace are keys to our communication.
 - b. Cursing does neither.
 - c. Cf. I Peter 2:1.
6. John received a parrot as a gift. But, all the parrot would say were curse words. He spoke kindly to the parrot. He played soft music to the parrot. Still it would curse like a sailor. Finally John was fed-up. He yelled at the parrot. It cursed back. He grabbed it by the throat and began to shake it. It continued to curse. He finally opened the freezer door and threw the parrot inside. A few minutes later he felt remorse. He went to the freezer and retrieved the parrot. When he did the parrot began to apologize for his rude and crude language. John was stunned. The parrot then asked John, “What did the turkey do?”

B. Complaining, Griping, Undue Criticism....

1. The word *complainer* is used only once in the N.T. (Jude 16).
 - a. It is associated with murmurers and lust.
 - b. Literally it means: To blame others for one’s lot in life.
2. Phil. 2:14 “Do all things without murmurings, and disputings.”
3. I Cor. 10:10 “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.”
 - a. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram complained (murmured) because they were not permitted to serve in the priestly office.
 - b. Numbers 16:1-35.
 - c. The Israelites in the wilderness are classic examples of complainers.
 1. We are as grasshoppers in their sight.
 2. They loathed the manna and quail.
4. Mt. 7:1-5.

5. Jesus did not grumble and gripe.
 6. Common church complaints:
 - a. No one is friendly up there.
 - b. All they are interested in is money.
 - c. The teachers are boring.
 - d. The sermons are too long.
 - e. They sing the same old songs.
 - f. They sing only new songs.
 7. Are these harmful, misleading statements? Are they often said when we let our guard down? Then they are IDLE words.
- C. Slander, Gossip and Rumors...
1. James 4:11 “Speak not evil one of another, brethren...” (cf. Eph. 4:31; Titus 3:1,2).
 2. I Tim.5:13 “And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also, and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.”
 3. Pro. 10:18 “He who spreads slander is a fool” (cf. 16:18).
 4. Have you ever said:
 - a. “I heard...” Or “They say...”
 - b. “Have you heard...” Or “Did you hear...”
 - c. “Somebody said...” Or “Don’t say I told you...”
 - d. “Did you ever...”
 - e. These phrases (and others) reveal one’s desire to tell something they probably should not.
 5. “Oh, you’ll never hear one of us repeating gossip, so you’d better be sure and listen the first time” (Hee Haw).
 6. Little children’s song - Be Careful.... Be careful little mouth what you say. For the Father up above is looking down in love....
 7. How many rumors have been started through the internet in recent years?
 8. Illustration: I heard about a fellow who saw a small looking creature as he was walking along a country road. Supposing that this varmint should be de-

stroyed, he picked up a stick and struck it. Immediately it doubled in size. The man got excited and began to violently frail the little beast. The more he beat it the bigger it grew. He threw the stick down and got a bigger stick. He was unable to destroy it. Exhausted he sat down and pondered what to do. To his surprise when he stopped beating it, it began to shrink. The creature's name: Rumor - Gossip-Slander

D. Angry Words...

1. Eph. 4:26 "Be ye angry and sin not. Let not the sun go down upon your wrath."
 - a. It is possible to be angry and not sin. Jesus was quite moved when He cleansed the temple (John 2:13 ff.).
 - b. Most of us, when angry, say things we shouldn't.
 - c. We let our guard down and say things that are misleading and harmful.
2. When there is anger within, words will come flying out.
3. Eccl. 5:2 "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God...."
4. James 1:19-20 "Wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."
 - a. Song: Angry Words.. Angry words O let them never from the tongue unbridled slip....
5. Thomas Jefferson "When angry count to ten before you speak; if very angry - one hundred."
6. Angry Words (which are idle words) have left overs....
 - a. Illustration: my files "LETHAL LEFT OVERS"
 - b. In a 1994 article "Wars - Lethal Leftovers Threaten Europeans," Associated Press reporter Christopher Burns writes - The bombs of WWII are still killing in Europe. They turn up—and sometimes blow up—at con-

struction sites, in fishing nets, or on beaches fifty years after the guns fell silent. Hundreds of tons of explosives are recovered every year in France alone. Thirteen old bombs exploded in France last year, killing twelve people and wounding eleven.... Unexploded bombs become more dangerous with time.... What is true of lingering bombs is also true of lingering anger and the words that are said when angry.

- c. Pro. 16:32 “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.”

CONCLUSION:

Are there any idle words of which you need to be forgiven this morning?

FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

John Pigg

Luke 9:23

“Let these sayings sink down into your ears” (Lk. 9:44—all Scripture references unless otherwise noted are from the English Standard Version). The New English Bible says, *“Ponder my words,”* and the J. B. Phillips version says, *“Store up in your minds what I tell you nowa-days.”* Everything Jesus taught was intended to be absorbed and obeyed, but some of his teachings should be particularly pondered deeply in our minds. One example is found in this text—*“And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me”* (Lk. 9:23). J. B. Phillips has it, *“If anyone wants to follow in my footsteps.”* Multitudes followed Christ during his public ministry, but as he began to unfold the demands of discipleship and his footsteps came closer to the cross, many withdrew from him, one of his closest companions denied him, another betrayed him, and the rest scattered like scared sheep.

Are you following in the footsteps of Christ? Do you really understand what it means to follow our Lord and walk with him each day? If you are thinking that merely having your name listed in the church directory, attending all the worship services, contributing of your income, and living a decent, moral life is all that is necessary to following in His footsteps, you are sadly mistaken. There are many professing followers but few that are faithfully following in his footsteps. Peter encouraged suffering saints, *“For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps”* (1 Pet. 2:21). Jesus challenges his saints today to follow in his footsteps in these five ways...

WE MUST COUNT THE COST

Let these words sink deeply into your ears. When *“great crowds accompanied”* Christ, *“he turned and said to them...For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish”* (Lk 14:25, 28-30). There is cost to following Christ and a price each of us must pay! Jesus told a rich, young

ruler, who came inquiring, “*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*” to “*Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me*” (Lk. 18:18). However, “*When he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich*” (Lk. 18:18, 22-23). Have you counted the cost?

A lot of people today desire the rewards of eternal redemption in heaven, but they are not willing to pay the price that discipleship demands on earth. However, the cost of following in His footsteps is worth it because the eternal rewards are far greater than the pleasures of sin for a season. Jesus says, “*For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?*” (Lk. 9:25). The wrong things of the world that you think are so important now will seem absolutely insignificant in eternity. Don’t let the Devil convince you that you cannot count the cost, because I assure you that when you begin to follow in the footsteps of the Savior, his Spirit will strengthen you from within and His saints will support you from without.

WE MUST CUT THE CONNECTIONS

Ponder this saying: “*If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple*” (Lk. 14:23). The term “*hate*” is a hyperbole or an overstatement which means “*love less,*” as Matthew 10:37 makes clear: “*Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*” Christ must come before family and friends, relatives and relationships, especially if those connections are evil companions. Paul taught, “*Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals*” (1 Cor. 15:33). Jesus warned his disciples that a time might come when the kingdom divides families: “*They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law*” (Lk. 12:53).

Jesus never stopped loving his family and he made friends with sinners. However, he did not allow those connections to come before doing his Father’s will, and neither must we! Once Jesus’ mother and brothers stood outside a house where Jesus was teaching and asked to speak with

him, “*But he replied to the man who told him, who is my mother, and who is my brother? And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, Here is my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother*” (Mt. 12:46-49). Jesus was not speaking negatively about his family, although John 7:5 mentions that Jesus’ brothers did not believe in him during his ministry. But forsaking family members and forming new friendships may be required of us if we follow in His footsteps. Do you have some connections in your life that are causing you to do some things contrary to God’s will and way? When I first became a Christian, I had some friends who loved to drink, smoke and cuss, and I joined right in with them. I did not have the courage to cut my connections with them for a long time, and they continually pulled me away from full commitment to Christ. When I changed my friends, I really began to grow in my relationship with Christ more than ever before!

WE MUST CLEAVE TO CHRIST

Eighteen times in the Gospels Jesus said to potential disciples, “*Follow me.*” That was a challenge for others to cling to him and follow closely in his footsteps. If you want to be a faithful follower of Christ, you’ve got to make sure you are holding fast to him as the Lord of your life and no one else and that you are standing firm in the authority of his word. Let this sink into your ears, “*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...I know my sheep and my sheep know me...My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me...a stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers*” (Jn. 10:5, 11, 14, 27). Before we can cleave to Christ, we must learn to leave all rivals to our loyalty. In our postmodern age it is common to hear various religious leaders calling for total religious tolerance as they speak of “many faiths,” “other gods,” and “different roads” that end up at the same place. Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Native American ancestor worship, Mormonism, Judaism are wrongly viewed as acceptable ways for finding God and getting to heaven. We are hearing a lot of false teachers proclaim in our day, “You don’t have to be baptized to be saved; you don’t have to observe the Lord’s Supper every Sunday; it’s O.K to sing with instruments— music is a matter of opinion; there is nothing wrong with women leading in worship— *women keep silence in the assembly* is cultural, not scriptural; there is nothing sinful about recreational drinking; gay marriage is an alternate lifestyle, etc.” To claim that Christ is “*the Way, the truth and the Life,*” (Jn. 14:6) and that “*there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men*

by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12) is narrow-minded bigotry in our day and time! But Jesus is not just a “new” way or a “better” way; he is the “only” to heaven!

WE MUST CARRY OUR CROSS

Let these sayings sink into your ears, “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me*” (Lk. 9:23), and “*Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple*” (Lk. 14:27). The cross is popular in today’s world, but not in the way it was in Jesus’ day. In New Testament times the cross was an instrument of punishment reserved for the worst of criminals, and they were forced to carry their cross to the place of execution. In the twenty-first century we “wear” the cross as beautiful jewelry and we “stare” at the cross as it sits atop church steeples, but not many of us “bear” the cross! We think the cross Jesus spoke of is some kind of sickness or that he was talking about burden bearing. Crosses in Bible times were for only one thing—dying! On-going-cross-carrying is nothing less than “self-denial.” We must be willing to die daily to our sinful desires and mortify our worldly passions. Carrying our cross requires that we not only stand with Christ, but suffer for his name sake, and yes, even sacrifice our lives, if necessary. Many of the early Christians were severely ridiculed for following in His footsteps and finally suffered martyrdom for it. God give us the courage to carry our cross and follow in his footsteps as they did!

WE MUST COMPLETE THE COURSE

Let these words sink into your ears. Jesus said to a potential disciple, “*Follow me,*” but he replied, “*Lord, let me first go and bury my father.*” Jesus answered, “*Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.*” Immediately, another spoke up and said, “*I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.*” And Jesus answered him, “*No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God*” (Lk. 9:59-62). Jesus realized that if the man went back to bury his father, or returned home to say good bye to his family that his affections might weigh heavily on his heart and they could adversely influence his decision to follow Christ, so that he might turn back and follow him no more. A lot of people came and started following in the footsteps of Christ, but not many completed the course. I am sure many of them had good intentions of staying the course,

but the fact is, they did not fix their eyes on Jesus and stay focused on the blessings that only come to those who finish their course. Let this saying sink into your ears: *“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Heb. 12:1-2).

CONCLUSION

Are you faithfully following in the footsteps of Jesus? John reported that *“After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, Do you want to go away as well? Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God”* (Jn. 6:66-69). This turned out to be more than a confession; it became a profession—at least, that was true for eleven of these apostles. They indeed trusted that only Christ has the *“words of eternal life,”* and they faithfully followed in his footsteps, by counting the cost, cutting the connections, cleaving to Christ, carrying their own cross, and completing the course. May God help each of us to accept the challenge to do the same in 2008 and be willing to challenge others also!

A Man's Life Does Not Consist In The Abundance Of His Possessions

Alex Bayes

Luke 12:13-15

Introduction

1. Greed—prominent theme over the ages: writings, plays, movies, etc.
The reason it is used so commonly is because it is such a reality.
2. Jesus is addressed by one looking for “justice,” and gives a message on the subject of greed.
3. This is not simply a message Jesus expects the “greedy” to hear . . . it is a message for all Christians.

I. A Close-Up View Of Greed (12:13)

- A. Greed is often “hidden” behind excuses, or self-justification.
 1. Tell “my brother”—what he is really saying, “I want my half,” but it doesn’t sound so selfish if we say it this way.
 2. “My children need . . .” We rearrange our words to avoid the verdict.
 3. Easy to “fool ourselves” into thinking that we are justified in doing this. Emotions take over good judgment.
- B. Greed is often impressed with the “apparently” powerful.
 1. “Teacher.” Jesus is appealed to as an authority on the morally and socially right thing to do.
 2. If you feel that you have been wronged, you do not appeal your case to a poor person, but normally to one who has more than you, thinking that this person can do something for you.
- C. Greed often manifests itself worst among family.
 1. An “inheritance” is under examination.
 2. Family possessions are to be shared, but think back . . . Ishmael & Isaac; Jacob & Esau.
 3. Conflicts should be solved by family members, but so many times, even family members betray one another to get ahead.

II. A Need Of Greed (12:14)

- A. Jesus is NOT the judge/arbitrator.
 1. The fact that Jesus speaks of a “judge” indicates that,

most cases, people will need a judge.

- B. We cannot work things out with respect to greed.
- C. Greed does not see “fairly,” so we need someone to be the voice of reason, who stands nothing to gain.
- D. Those who attempt to “control” their greed, by themselves, will always find themselves “balanced” (Prov. 16:2).

III. **A Warning Against Greed** (12:15)

- A. Jesus gives a warning to the one feeling like he had not received his fair share.
- B. Protective measures will always be necessary
- C. Greed has more than one face. “Watch out. Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.”
- D. Jesus indirectly attacks a commonly believed lie.
 - 1. We have bought into the lie.
 - 2. Our LIVES are measured by what we have.
 - 3. Our HAPPINESS is measured by what we have.
- E. Jesus knew that man was this way.
- F. Jesus offers a remedy.
 - 1. A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.
 - 2. Remember, this is not JUST for the greedy, but for all Christians.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. How will this teaching change our lives? When will we stop applying this teaching to everybody, but ourselves? Could it be possible that the teaching needs to be applied, today, to our lives?
- 2. Are we overlooking greed that continues to lurk deep in our hearts?
- 3. What changes can we confidently make, in light of this teaching, “A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions?”

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Charles Leonard

Matthew 6:33

Introduction:

1. Educators believe that children accept the goals, values and priorities of the parents.
2. The same admonition the Lord gave to the disciples is still needed today.
3. People are involved in so many things that the Lord's admonition is often neglected.
4. Since we are unable to do all that we would like to do, we must determine what should be first in our lives.
5. Matthew 6:33 contains an obligation, designates an object, establishes an order, and offers a conditional promise.

Discussion:

- I. **WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO "SEEK" (AGONIZE) FOR THAT WHICH IS FIRST.**
 - A. We must search the scriptures (John 5:39).
 - B. We must work out our own salvation (Phil. 2:12).
 - C. We must abound in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).
 - D. We must have a faith that works by love (Gal. 5:6).
 - E. Jesus said "I must work" and we have the same obligation to be active (John 9:4).
 - F. How much agonizing are we doing as Christians?
- II. **THE LORD REVEALS THE "OBJECT" WE ARE TO SEEK FOR.**
 - A. We are to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33).
 - B. One cannot seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness without being a member of the kingdom (John 3:5).
 - C. We are also admonished to seek his righteousness (Ps. 119:172; 1 John 2:29; 3:7).
- III. **THE LORD ALSO REVEALS THE "ORDER" FOR THAT WHICH WE ARE TO SEEK.**
 - A. The kingdom of God and his righteous should be "first" with God's people.
 - B. We don't have any problem understanding what the word "first" means.
 - C. Our problem is failing to practice what the Lord teaches.

- D. Commitment to Christ and the church should come even before families ties (Matt. 10:37; Luke 9:59-62; 1 Tim. 5:8; Eph. 6:4).
- E. The Bible still reads the same after we give all of our excuses.

IV. THE LORD PROMISES TO BLESS THOSE WHO PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST.

- A. The Lord will take care of those who are obedient (Matt. 6:25-33).
- B. We will not take material things with us when we leave this world (1 Tim. 6:7-8).
- C. Therefore, we need to involve ourselves more in the spiritual and less in material things.

V. NOW LET US EXAMINE OURSELVES.

- A. Are we using our talents in the Lord's work (Matt. 25:30)?
- B. There are 168 hours in a week, how much of it am I giving to the Lord ?
- C. Christ gave His life, how much are we giving to the Lord (1 Cor. 16:2)?
- D. Are we really serious about going to Heaven or are we just playing church?

CONCLUSION:

1. Matthew 6:33 contains an obligation, designates an object, establishes an order, and offers a conditional promise.
2. Is it possible that our priorities are in the wrong place?
3. Are material things more important than Christ and the church?
4. We will leave all of our material things when we pass on (1 Tim. 6:7-8).
5. All in this audience are either saved or lost, where am I?

“I Will Come Again”

Jimmy W. Bates

John 14:3

1. The Second Coming of Christ is one of those “*exceeding great and precious promises*” Peter spoke of in II Pet. 1:4.
2. “*Where is the Promise of His Coming?*” (II Pet. 3:4).
 - a. Christ testified of the fact (John 14:1-3; Matt. 24:44).
 - b. Testimony of Angels (Acts 1:1-11).
 - c. Testimony of inspired Apostles (II Pet. 3:9, 10; I Thess. 5:23; 4:16-18; I Tim. 6:14; Heb. 9:27, 28; I Cor. 11:26; I John 3:2; James 5:7).
 - d. 20 of 27 N. T. Books refer to the Second Coming. 1 of every 25 verses mentions it – over 300 times.
 - e. To believe the Bible is to believe in the Second Coming of Christ.
3. Much false teaching on the subject.
 - a. Premillennialism – 1,000-year-reign of Christ on earth.
 - b. Some deny a visible coming.
 - c. Some say He came “figuratively” in A. D. 70.
4. Let us see and hear what the Bible teaches.

I. HOW IS HE COMING – WHAT/WHO WILL COME WITH HIM?

- A. He will come as He went - **in clouds** (Acts 1:9-11).
 1. Saints will “meet the Lord in the air” (I Thess. 4:17).
 2. No indication the Lord will ever set foot on earth again.
- B. He will come **audibly** (I Thess. 4:16; John 5:28).
- C. He will come **visibly – personally** (Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7).
- D. He will come **in His glory with the holy angels** (Matt. 25:31).
- E. He will come **in flaming fire** (II Thess. 1:7-9).

II. FOR WHAT PURPOSE IS HE COMING – WHAT OTHER EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE?

- A. He is NOT coming to:
 1. Offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin (Heb. 9:28).
 2. To set up an earthly kingdom (John 18:36; Mk. 9:1;

- Col. 1:13).
3. To offer the Lost another chance (Heb. 9:27; Lk. 16:19-31).
- B. He IS coming to:
1. Raise ALL the dead – good and bad (John 5:28, 29).
 - a. The Righteous Living will have no advantage over the Righteous dead (I Thess. 4:13-18).
 - b. The Living will be changed (I Cor. 15:51-54).
 2. Destroy the world – the earth and the works therein (II Pet. 3:10-12).
 - a. Not just the evil destroyed – the earth also.
 - b. Foolish for men to put their trust in material things.
 - c. Foolish for men to neglect or refuse to hear and obey the Lord (Matt.7:24-27).
 3. Execute Judgment (Heb. 9:27; Acts 17:30, 31).
 - a. ALL will be judged (II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10, 12; Matt. 25:31-46; II Tim. 4:1; Rev. 20:11-12).
 - b. The Lord will be our righteous Judge (II Tim. 4:6-8).
 - c. The basis of Judgment will be:
 1. The word of Christ (John 12:48; Rev. 20:11-15).
 2. Our individual compliance with His word (II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:2–11).
 4. Reward the faithful children of God with a crown of life in Heaven (Rev. 2:10; James 1:12; II Tim. 4:6-8; Matt. 25:21, 34).
 - a. He will deliver the Kingdom up to the Father (I Cor. 15:22-26).
 - b. Entrance into the Everlasting Kingdom – Heaven (II Pet. 1:10, 11; Rev. 22:14; I John 3:2).
 5. Take vengeance on those who know not God nor obey Him (II Thess.1:7-9).

- a. Even some who were religious (Matt. 7:21-23).
- b. Matt. 25:30, 41, 46; Rev. 20:14, 15.

III. WHEN WILL CHRIST COME AGAIN?

- A. Date-setters have always been wrong and proven to be false teachers.
- B. The time is not known to man; only God knows (Matt. 24:36).
- C. It will be sudden, unexpected, without warning “as a thief in the night” (Matt. 24:37-44; I Thess. 5:1-3; II Pet. 3:10).
- D. Make no mistake: He Will Come (II Pet. 3:9). Jesus declared, “I Will Come Again.”
- E. We should remember, unless the Lord comes in our life time, it is at the moment of death that our eternal destiny is sealed and can’t be changed (Lk. 16:19-31).

IV. WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN VIEW OF HIS COMING?

- A. II Pet. 3:11 - “What manner of persons ought we to be?”
 1. Obedient people (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8, 9; I Pet. 1:22-25).
 2. Always on guard against being led back into the world (II Pet. 2:20-22).
 3. Must grow in grace and knowledge of Truth (II Pet. 3:18; 1:5-11).
 4. Must watch and be ready for His return (Matt. 24:42, 44; Lk. 21:34).
- B. The Christian attitude toward the coming of Christ:
 1. Look for His coming (Tit. 2:11-14; Heb. 9:28; Phil. 3:20).
 2. Patiently wait for it (I Cor. 1:7; James 5:7).
 3. Desire and Pray for it (II Pet. 3:12; Rev. 22:20).
 4. Be confident (I John 2:28-29; I Thess. 5:4-9).

CONCLUSION:

1. The Lord’s promise, “*I Will Come Again*” should sink down into our ears (Lk. 9:44).

2. Does the thought of the coming of Christ and the end of the world ***comfort or trouble*** you? Song: "There's a Great Day Coming."
3. A sad day for many who will not be ready:
 - a. Drunkard - caught with bottle turned up.
 - b. Murderer - caught with weapon in hand.
 - c. Swearer - caught with oath in mouth.
 - d. Adulterer - caught in the act.
 - e. Thief - caught with stolen merchandise.
 - f. The person who was going to obey the gospel some day will be caught lost.
 - g. Members of the church will be caught at odds with one another.
 - h. Some will be caught sowing discord from house to house.
 - i. The unfaithful child of God who said to himself - one day I'm going to make things right with God and the church - will be caught separated from God.
4. If you knew the Lord would come tonight what would you do?
 - a. As an alien sinner - would you obey the gospel?
 - b. As an erring Christian - would you repent?
5. If the Lord had come yesterday, where would you be today?
6. Some day all of us will look back in the realization that either the Lord came or death came yesterday. If we were not ready, it's too late.
7. Let us make ready and then say with John, "even so, Come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

Notes

Notes

Notes

