

Christian Living In Expectation of the Return of Jesus!

Text: Titus 2:11-14

Introduction: Jesus IS coming again! This is not just a “hope” as the world defines hope. It is not just “wishful thinking”; it is not a “far-fetched fantasy” for faithful believers. We don’t know when but we do know that he is coming back for His Church.

If someone were to ask you “How do you know that Jesus is coming again” How would **YOU** answer? I thank the Lord that we are a part of a heritage that has stressed the “imminent” coming of the Lord Jesus. What does “imminent” mean? It means that it could happen at anytime; so we mean that it could happen right now!

How do we know He is coming again? We must not rely on tradition, opinions, church history and the like as a basis for this belief. We must believe it because **we see it in the Word of God.**

Concerning this thought, someone said, in remembering a Bible teacher who had passed away:

“...Many time I have heard him say, ‘remember, no truth is yours until you see it for yourself in God’s Word.’”

We read in Psalm 119:89, “**Your eternal Word stands firm in Heaven**” (NLT). So, what is our authority? We have the testimony of the Lord Jesus Himself, the testimony of the holy angels, and the testimony of the inspired writers of the New Testament.

- I. **The Testimony of the Lord Jesus Himself** (John 14:1-4)
 - We have the testimony of Jesus telling the Disciple of His upcoming death and the promise that He would come back for them.
- II. **The Testimony of the holy angels.** (Acts 1:11)
 - At the Ascension we have the testimony of the holy angels. They give the Eleven these great and comforting words: “**Why do you gaze up into the sky? This SAME Jesus who you see go up to Heaven will return in like manner.**” This passage, along with the one in John and others in the New testament tell us that Jesus Himself will keep His Word and comeback personally for us.
- III. **The Testimony of the Writers of the Epistles**
 - All Through the Epistles we have the teachings that Jesus is coming again. In I Thessalonians 4:13-18, the Christians at Thessalonica and us are told that the Lord HIMSELF will come back for us! We have the same admonition in Titus 2;13. Be looking for the return of the Blessed Hope.

I want break down the passage in Titus 2:11-14 and do an exposition of the text and then some application for us today.

“For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to ALL men.

1. This passage is about the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus. The grace of God appeared both bodily in Jesus and also as an action from a loving and merciful God.

- The saving grace of Jesus illustrates His great love for mankind. God so loved the world (John 3:16). It is in this action that we have the Godhead showing forth this love toward us.
2. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10)
 3. All have sinned (Romans 3:10; 3:23)
 4. He came to save ALL men (Rom. 5:8) When the Gospel light is turned on in a pale of darkness, changes are inevitable. Those who respond are transformed; but those who reject the message must face the consequences.

“Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.”

1. Say **“NO?”** to the attractions of the world (Use # 243, Great Songs of the Church) All of Paul’s instructions in Titus 2:1-10 can be summed up in verse 11.
 - Believers must refuse any action that lacks reverence for God.
 - Ungodliness means a lack of love or total disregard for God (Rom. 1:18)
 - We live in an age when many totally reject God’s influence in any area of life. Christians must renounce that attitude.
2. Seek His Kingdom First. (Matthew 6:33)
3. Worldly passions are desires for the pleasures and activities of this world

“And to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.”

1. Live in the world but not of the world (I John 2:15-17)
2. Christians must not only renounce ungodliness and worldly passions; they must replace these desires with positive characteristics. To fight against lust, we must say no to temptation, but we must also say yes to service for Christ.
3. **“Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.** (I John 4:4) The power to live as Christians comes from the Holy Spirit.
4. God’s salvation by grace directs our lives in “this present age.”

“Looking for that Blessed Hope” (NIV says **“while we wait for the Blessed Hope.”**)

1. Paul gives us a wonderful motivation for all this righteous living—believers are waiting for a hope that is already a certainty; the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus. We can look forward to Christ’s return with eager anticipation and hope.
2. **“Blessed Hope.”** Paul brings out 2 aspects of Christian living that need to be stressed today: (1) Waiting with anticipation and (2) hoping for Christ’s glorious appearing. The “waiting” is good for us: it builds character, endurance, and perseverance. The “hoping” makes the waiting bearable.
3. **C. S. Lewis wrote:** *“It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have been ineffective in this. Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in; aim at earth and you will get neither.”*
4. In the term “wait” we find the tension of eager expectation.

5. Jesus is the only hope this world has. The world has many anchors, but Jesus is the only one that holds." Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
6. He is returning for His bride (John 14:1-3) Live your life expecting His "soon" return.

"And the Appearing of the Glory of our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

1. This passage stresses the Deity of Jesus!
2. Christ's appearing is meant to be a comfort (I Thes. 4:18)
3. We will receive "The Crown of Righteousness" (2 Tim. 4:6-18)

"Who gave Himself."

1. Jesus came to **"seek and to save the lost."** He came to bear our sins; He came to die in our place.
2. The **"Great God and our Savior"** (2:13) whose return believers await, is the same Jesus who came to earth and died for us. Christ's act of sacrifice is summed up in the words **"gave Himself."** He gave Himself voluntarily.

"That He might redeem us from every lawless deed."

1. All are lost (Rom. 6:23)
2. We need a redeemer! He gave Himself on our behalf. **"That He might redeem us"** means that He purchased our release from the captive of sin with a ransom.
3. "Jesus Paid it all, all to Him I Owe."
4. *Years I spent in vanity and pride caring not my Lord was crucified, knowing not it was for me He died, at Calvary.*
5. *O, the love that drew salvation's plan, O, the grace that brought it down to man, O, the mighty gulf that God did span, at Calvary.*
6. *Mercy there was great and grace was free; pardon there was multiplied to me; there my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary.*

"And to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good works."

1. His own people, the Church (Matthew 16:13-18)
2. We are a Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9-11)
3. We work because we are saved. Grace says that you get the privilege to work. We should live according to God's will, zealous for good works. Then, when Christ return, He will find us ready, watching, waiting and working for Him.

Conclusion:

Jesus is coming back for us! That is a reality. He has called us out of a dark world into the **"marvelous light of the Gospel."** (Col. 1:12-14)

- The Word of God describes this transformation as changing kingdoms.

- The terminology used here is a military illustration. It pictures Rome going into a free country and as a result of waging war and winning they subdue the nation and take them into captivity.
- In the spiritual realm, we are the ones in bondage and when we accept the Lord and obey the Gospel, we are “transferred” (NASV), “translated” (KJV) or are “conveyed” (NKJV) out of that bondage into the light of the Gospel
- But it does not end there. Since we have redemption, we must put our new found faith to the test
- We have been called out of that dark kingdom, changed by the light of the Gospel and now we have the privilege to go back into that kingdom, now empowered by the Holy Spirit and utilizing the Whole Armor of God (Eph. 6:10-2) to help others find their way out. Let’s be found letting our light shine for Him! (I Peter 2:10).
- We sing a song by Fanny Crosby: *“Blessed are those who the Lord finds watching, in His glory they shall share; If He should come at the dawn or midnight, will He find us watching there?”*
- True waiting involves working for the Lord; not a working to be saved, but a working because you are saved.
- We are saved by grace, through faith, in baptism, unto good works.
- Let’s be like the Thessalonians in I Thes. 1:10 and be a people who live our lives for the Lord so that others may see us and glorify God. (Matthew 5:14-16)