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Jesus is coming – Pt 2 The Lord will return for His church

This is our second study on – Jesus is coming. In our previous teaching we established – (1) Jesus taught His disciples through parables to watch as He will come, (2) Jesus spoke plainly that He would come with angels and sit on the throne of David, (3) Jesus' disciples asked Him for a sign of His coming. In this study we establish – (1) Christians wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, (2) the Lord will descend from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise, and (3) then we which are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

1. Christians wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

“...waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor.1: 7). See also 1Thes 1:10

2. The Lord will descend from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise

“For the Lord...shall descend from heaven with a shout...the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thes 4:16)

3. Then we which are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air...” (1 Thes.4: 17).

Illustration to help apply the teaching to our life.

Several weeks ago a preacher on Queen St. listened to a young man, claiming to be a Christian, who was so utterly despondent and discouraged that he had been shun by the church, his life was in ruin he clearly had no comfort or hope and was angry with God. The preacher asked about his church background and the young man was very cagey to the point of evasive, but finally revealing he was a Jehovah Witness.

Questions to think about.

i) What is the joy, hope that the Jehovah Witnesses do not have, that the return of Christ has for a Christian? ii) what happens to the dead in Christ at Christ's return?

Answers from the scriptures

i) The JW is ignorant of –

a) Christ's return in the clouds to rapture His church and therefore ignorant of –

* them which sleep in Christ – “will God bring with him” (1 Thes.4: 14),and

* ignorant of them being raised a spiritual body at the time of the rapture (1 Cor.15: 44). “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15: 52). Therefore, they sorrow as non-believers that have no hope.

b) The dead in Christ, those who were believers but now passed away – their body is in the grave and their spirit is with the Lord, who brings them with him when we meet those that are alive in the clouds – Ecc.12: 7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it”

How does this study help to answer last week's question? – Will we, the church go through the period of “great tribulation”? The timing of the rapture will be – “When the fulness of the Gentiles be come in” – (Rom.11: 25), which we assume will be at the end the church age,

Let us comfort one another in the knowledge that the Lord will return in the clouds and we will met Him in the air and those who are “asleep in Christ”, and so will we ever be with the Lord. Amen!