

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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“THE DAY WILL COME;” WAIT FOR IT!” Pt.2

By Bruce Reeves

What God promised to come, in many passages, always did come, and his promises to us should be anxiously awaited, as Habakkuk 2:3 wisely states: *“For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hasteth toward the end, and shall not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not delay.”*

In this article I choose from a great number of such passages and call our attention to the certainty of fulfillment that we see in each case. Be it soon, be it late, the day comes! What should that teach us? The unlying God chooses the promise and the time of its “coming.”

Our assignment is wait for it, for it shall surely come. There are consequences to our response to the promise of the coming day! It’s a serious matter, as scriptural history shows us.

7. Matt. 9:15, *“And Jesus said unto them, Can the sons of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then will they fast.”*

The sons of the bridechamber are those associated with the bridegroom, and in this case represent the disciples of Christ, of whom the church is his bride (2 Cor. 11:2; Jn. 3:29; Eph. 5:27; Isa. 54:5). Being in the companionship of Christ, it was not a time of fasting and mourning, but of joy and feasting.

But the days of Christ’s betrayal, when he forcibly was taken from the disciples (Matt. 26:47-56), would change the time to one of fasting and mourning. There is an appropriate time for fasting; it is not a “church ritual” for arbitrarily designated times in the “church calendar.” It is designed for mourning and sadness. The disciples were not to have the physical presence of Jesus continually; he would ascend to the Father in heaven (Jn. 20:17; Acts 1:9), and then those joyous times for having him to personally consult would end. Those days came. Jesus was right!

8. Lk. 21:6, *“As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in which there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”*

Read verses 1-28. Consult Mark 13:1-37. Those days here referenced came some 37 years later, (A.D. 33 to A.D. 70), when the Romans army destroyed the temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70) and put an end to the Jewish nation. The great stones of the temple made this prophecy very unlikely, but it all would come to pass, the days will come. Those days came. Jesus was right!

9. Lk. 17:31, *“In that day, he that shall be on the housetop, and his goods in the house, let him not go down to take them away: and let him that is in the field likewise not return back.”*

God shows mercy to the Christians at the time of the Roman siege of Jerusalem by forecasting the urgency to flee from the pending destruction of Jerusalem to the mountains (21:20,21). The roof-tops of the houses, where the inhabitants refreshed themselves after the sun went down, had interior steps into the living quarters, but also steps along the outside wall.

The urgency to escape was of so limited time that those on the roof were to forget about gathering possessions downstairs in the house. (In the 49's in Mexico my family rented such a house and spent time on the roof to seek refreshment in the evenings from the desert heat. From ours we would greet other folks on their roof-tops).

They were not to look back (Lk. 17:31,32). Seeking to save this world's good would result in their death (ver. 33).

Historians tell us that for some inexplicable reason the siege was lifted temporarily and many Jews (they were Christians!) fled the city. That day, of brief duration, came, and Christians, remembering the words of Jesus spoken some 37 years before, fled for their lives to the mountains. God was right!

10. Matt. 7:22,23, “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

The form of the question expects an affirmative answer, but the questioners are self-deceived. What was the reason why they would not enter heaven? Not lack of religiosity, not lack of energetic activities in denominational bodies, but in a single word: anomia (from the “privative a” at the beginning of the word, that negates the stem, and the stem, “law”; so, lawlessness. That is the meaning of “iniquity;” it’s lawlessness. It means acting without authority, without law.

Many are doing religious acts, privately and in collective worship, that God has not authorized, such as: baptizing babies, employing women as preachers and elders, entertaining audiences, refusing to exercise discipline, using instrumental music in their worship, etc.

If there is no authority for it, what is done is vain worship (Matt. 15:9) that Jesus rejects. If God did not plant it, it shall be rooted up (15:13). Has it occurred to many that there can be “vain worship?”

The omniscient Christ rejects them from his presence (“depart from me”). This is the awful sentence pronounced by the Judge of all the earth (Gen. 18:25). See Lk. 13:24-27.

The problem with many who claim to be active Christians is lawlessness! Matt. 28:18; Revelation 12:10, make it very plain that all authority resides in Christ, and his apostles (2 Cor. 10:8; Acts 2:42). If the practice is not of Christ’s authority; that is, of his apostles, it is lawlessness (iniquity).

To the surprise and objections of many professed Christians, in that day of Judgment they shall be commanded to depart from Christ. How sad, but Christ said so; God is right!

11. Acts 2:47, “And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved.”

The gospel had been preached and those that received the apostolic word (2:41) were baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27). God was daily adding them to the saved. Man can’t join the church that Christ built for the simple reason that he can’t save himself. God adds to the church for he is the Saviour. The church is made up of the saved! The number of the saved increased daily (Acts 4:4; 6:1,7). What Luke here said about God was right!

12. Heb. 10:37, “For yet a very little while, He that cometh shall come, and shall not tarry.”

Verse 36 tells us that we have need of patience, steadfastness, endurance, after having done the will of God, in order to receive God’s promises. The “coming days” always came! The above passages have proven this thought.

Reference here in Hebrews 10:37 is made to Habakkuk 2:3, which we cited to begin our article. With it I close: “*though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not delay.*”

Indeed, God is right! And we? Our decision has its consequences! We have been warned. Will we be without excuse? Many will be! Think about it.

(Concluded)



Memory Verse of the Week:

Acts 8:4 (NKJB)

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Wesley Trimble, Greyson Reynolds (Nellie's classmate), Sandra Oliver, and Janis Johnson (Savannah), and Robert Howard (Doug and Pat's son in law), Fred And Dianne Johnson are recovering from the Covid, continued prayers.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"Tough Questions About Christianity Pt. 3"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Ephesians (Chris Reeves)
Starting Page & Question: *Page #11, Question #8*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Doug George
Revelation 7:15-17
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Russell Briggs
Assisting: —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"No More Tears"*
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

June 8th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: Jeremiah & Lamentations
(John Humphries)
Starting Page & Question: *Page #30, Question #1*
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

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“Tough Questions About Christianity” Pt. 3

Lesson Text: **1 Peter 3:15**. We must be ready to answer the “tough questions.”

- Tough questions do come- Stephen in **Acts 6:8-10**.

V. How Can Christianity Be True When Christians Have Caused So Much Injustice?

- **Assumption:** The Christian Church has abused, enslaved, and killed people throughout history. This means Christianity cannot be right.
- **Challenge:** History holds many examples of Christians and institutions that have launched military campaigns in the name of Christ, enslaved groups of people, and exploited the vulnerable. Tragically, some people have twisted verses in the Bible to try to justify their atrocities, and have claimed the title “Christian” for power and financial gain.

Premise: Some people have committed atrocities in the name of Christ.

Conclusion: Therefore, Christianity must be false.

^^ How Would You Answer The Question?

- The Question Assumes The People Doing The Atrocities Are Actual Christians.
- Many Call Themselves Christians Who Are NOT Following Christ’s Ways.
The Crusades (1096–1291); The Spanish Inquisition (1478-1834).
Some Took What Jesus Said In **Matthew 10:34** Quite Literally!— But Were Quite Wrong!
- Do True Christians Start Wars And Use Weapons To Fight For Their Cause?
Matthew 26:52; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Isaiah 2:2-4; John 18:36; Ephesians 6:10-18
- In Conclusion: **2 Timothy 2:22-25**.

VI. If God Loves Everyone, How Can He Send Some People To Hell?

- **Assumption:** A loving God wouldn’t send anyone to hell. If God really loves people, He Wouldn’t punish people with hell for not believing in Him.
- **Challenge:** What is hell? To be in hell is to experience excruciating separation from God’s goodness. God does not desire that anyone should be separated from Him and He takes no pleasure or satisfaction in people being in hell (**Ezekiel 18:23**).
Hell is the opposite of everything God wants for humanity.... God offers forgiveness, but some people run from God and choose separation from Him.

^^ How Would You Answer The Question?

- This Is An Emotional Argument Designed To Put God In A Bad Light.
 - It Is Also Based On A False Concept Of What Love Does And Doesn’t Do.
Some Think Love Overlooks Sin, Ignores Wrongs, & Accepts All Without Forgiveness...
 - God Loves Us- **1 John 4:7-8**; God Cannot Bear Sin- **Rom. 11:22; Ex. 34:6-7**.
 - What Is The Purpose Of Hell? **Matthew 25:41**.
 - What Sends Us There? **2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 21:8**.
 - God Has Demonstrated His Love How? **Romans 5:6-8; Titus 3:3-7**.
 - What Happens When We Reject The Love Of God? **Mark 10:21-22**.

“No More Tears”

Lesson Text: **Revelation 7:13-17.**

I. The Tears We Experience Now.

—Why?

1. Tears Of Bereavement- **Gen. 23:2; 24:67; 37:35; 2 Sam. 18:33—19:2.**
2. Tears Of Loss- **Genesis 27:34-38—Heb. 12:17; 1 Samuel 30:1-4.**
3. Tears Of Separation- **Ruth 1:9-14; Acts 20:36-38.**
4. Tears Of Sacrifice- **2 Samuel 24:24; Romans 6:12-13; Matt. 19:22.**
5. Tears Of Repentance- **2 Corinthians 7:1; Luke 7:36-38; Matt. 27:65.**
6. Tears Of Suffering- **Job 2:13; Psalm 6:6-10.**
7. Tears Of Longing- **1 Samuel 1:10-11.**
8. Tears Of Recompense- **James 5:1.**

Notes: _____.

II. How God Looks At Our Tears.

- God Pities Our Condition- **Matthew 5:4; Psalm 103:13.**
- God Comforts Those Who Need It- **2 Corinthians 1:3-4.**
- God Turns Our Mourning To Joy- **Psalm 30:1-12.**

Notes: _____.

III. The Hand Of God In Our Lives.

- God’s Hand Of Supplication- **Isaiah 65:2— Proverbs 1:24.**
- God’s Hand Of Deliverance- **Exodus 13:3; Colossians 1:13.**
- God’s Hand Of Protection- **John 10:28-29.**
- God’s Hand Of Guidance- **Psalm 23:1-2; 139:10.**
- God’s Hand Of Blessing- **Acts 11:21.**
- The Hand Of Comfort- **Revelation 7:17; 21:4.**

Notes: _____.