

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

September 25, 2016

Jesus Is Coming: Why?

by Frank Himmel

Jesus is coming! The New Testament is clear about that. There are, however, a number of misconceptions about Jesus' second coming. What does the Bible say? Let's begin our study by considering why Jesus is coming.

Jesus is not coming...

To complete work He left unfinished. Just before His death, Jesus prayed to the Father, "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do" (John 17:4). On the cross, Jesus pronounced, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

Nothing Jesus came to do 2,000 years ago was left incomplete or postponed!

To offer further atonement for sin. Hebrews 9:28 clearly says, "So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him" (ESV).

To invite people to be saved. He has already extended that invitation through the gospel, an invitation which includes the terms of salvation (Mark 16:15-16). As Paul observed, "Now is the day of salvation"

(2 Corinthians 6:2). Those who wait until Jesus comes to obey the gospel will have waited too long!

To establish His kingdom. Despite the popularity of this idea, the Bible does not say Jesus is coming in the future to establish His kingdom. He is already king! He reigns now on God's throne (Revelation 3:21). His reign began when He ascended back to the Father (Dan 7:13-14; Acts 2:33-36). Jesus' second coming will mark the end, not the beginning, of His reign (1 Corinthians 15:22-26).



Jesus is coming...

To raise the dead. All the dead.

"Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment"

(John 5:28-29). Note that in 1 Corinthians 15, death is the last enemy Jesus conquers, a conquest that is completed by means of resurrection. At that point, Jesus' yields His throne to the Father (vv. 22-28).

To judge the world. "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31). Jesus is the judge. He is perfectly suited to the task, being ▶

both God and man (John 5:27). The standard is the revelation of God’s will (Romans 2:11-16). The basis is our deeds (Romans 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Nothing will be hidden (Romans 2:16).

To receive His followers. Jesus promised His disciples, “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also (John 14:3). The great hope of the gospel is to be with the glorious Savior eternally (John 17:24).

To punish the wicked. This is the tragic counterpart. The Lord is loving and compassionate, He is also just and vengeful. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 warns:

For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed...

Conclusion

Now that we understand why Jesus is coming, remaining areas of the study will fall into place. Next week we will consider how Jesus is coming. ■

“Just As I Am”



by Frank Himmel

The song *Just As I Am* is perhaps the most commonly used invitation song. The idea in the song is that we cannot make ourselves right with God on our own; apart from Jesus’ blood we have no hope. That is precisely the New Testament picture (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; etc.).

I fear, however, that some folks have an erroneous idea about Jesus saving us “just as we are.” They seem to think that He saves us without any change in our conduct. That is the opposite of the New Testament picture.

Jesus’ commission to the apostles was “that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations” (Luke 24:47). Forgiveness is extended to those who abandon sinful conduct, not to those who insist on continuing in it.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians, “Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you ...” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). He did not say such **are** some of you, but such **were**. They changed their conduct in connection with being washed, sanctified, and justified (v. 11).

“Just as I am,” if referring to our own helplessness, is a comforting sentiment; but to suggest it means salvation without repentance is to hold out false hope. ■

Service Leaders for the Week			
	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	John Baucom	Chris Brooks	Josh Baucom
SONG LEADER	Brian Wilson	Steven Turner	Gary Hagler
OPENING PRAYER	Jason Chandler	TBD	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Greg Winget	Greg Winget	
CUP	Albert Harrison Sr	Albert Harrison Sr	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Albert Lee Harrison		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Singing	Brian Wilson
CLOSING PRAYER	David Gray	TBD	Hunter Lee