

When the Lord Comes

Stanley Toussaint

I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 5.

B. Signs today are pointing to the return of Christ including the return of Israel to Palestine.

C. We ought to have confidence in life, no fear in death and a concern to serve Jesus in light of His coming.

II. We ought to live in expectation of the Lord's return.

A. Confidence in death.

1. We have a building in heaven. It is not heaven because it is from heaven. It is not a house because there are no apartments in the Father's mansion (John 14:2). Others say it is an intermediate body given between the time of death and resurrection (I Thessalonians 4), but there is the possibility of a bodiless soul. (II Corinthians 5:3). The best way to understand this is a resurrection body.

2. The old body will be clothed with brand new life at the resurrection of Christ. The only way a body will be naked is if one dies before the resurrection.

3. Paul is confident in the resurrection of the body because it is God's work and because of the down payment of the Spirit.

4. Paul's first goal was to die because his first desire was to be present with the Lord. One is immediately with the Lord when he dies—there is no "soul sleep." (II Corinthians 5:8)

B. Confidence in life.

C. Concern in service.

1. II Corinthians 5:10 speaks of the Great White Throne Judgment that is for Christians in order to determine their reward.

2. Everyone must appear before this judgment.

3. Every motive will be seen before God—we must be manifest before the judgment seat.

4. For Christians there will be no sins brought before God because of Christ—only good deeds will be revealed.

III. Conclusion.

A. Paul's concern was singular—serving Christ in a manner that was pleasing to Him.

B. Paul is confident—every Christian should know that salvation is a gift and is assured.

Application questions:

1. How would you counsel someone who regularly fears death?

2. What should a person expect when they die?

3. How would you describe the Great White Throne Judgment? Explain.
