

Today is September 17, 2023

“Jesus Is Coming!”

By Elder Wm. Doyal Thomas (Now with The Lord)
<https://www.pbcofdecaturalabama.org/Doyal/coming.htm>

The first phase of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will be in the clouds, when He shall call out, or gather unto Himself, or rapture away His precious saints. He will say unto His Blood bought saints, "Come up hither", and His saints will respond to His call, and will be caught away. It will be as a Bridegroom who calls away His chosen ones to meet Him, as is recorded in Solomon's Song, "My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away". (Song of Solomon 2:10).

And Oh, what joy awaits God's people, and what matchless love is here manifested by our dear Lord! He loves His people, and has purposed to gather them unto Himself, and to maintain them eternally in His presence, where there will never, never, ever be separation any more. He is coming for His people. Soon.

It is this calling out that is the very next great event in the life of a child of God. Experientially, this is what remains to be realized by the born again. Initially, regeneration was, or is to be experienced by God's elect, and then the home going. Great periods of time may intervene between these two momentous occurrences, but they are both stupendous and significant landmarks. Birth, then home going. How marvelous. How grand an expectation to be realized.

You will recall that it is recorded in Acts, chapter 1 that He is coming back. "... Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11). Please remember now, that prior to this promise, Jesus has been virgin born; has proven His acceptability to God as The Sacrificial Lamb without blemish and without spot by His perfect life of obedience to the will of the Father; has been offered up to God sacrificially, upon the altar of God at Calvary; has been dealt with as our sin offering, having died in our room and in our stead; has been raised for our justification, God having testified of His satisfaction in His son; and has ascended to the Father, there to intercede in the behalf of His people before God as our High Priest.

Now, after accomplishing all these marvelous acts of His for God's glory and in our behalf, why wouldn't He come back for us? Disregard the skeptics who deny His coming again, for they are foolish and know not whereof they speak. Rely upon the sure mercies of God. Rely upon His promises and upon His word. He is coming back! He is coming for us!

Those who stood by and watched Him as He was taken up from them were amazed. But the Scriptures provided them, and us, with great and precious promise, namely, the promise of His return. Yet, in the face of this clearly stated promise, there are those who openly deny that He will return. "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11).

Welcome

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From the Pastor's Desk

“Grace is given to us; God has a measure for every believer.”

By Pastor Randy Johnson

Romans 12:3 *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*

There is no question that God's grace is a gift, therefore everything God gives us is by grace, and as a gift. Knowing that grace is a gift from God should keep us humble. The Lord tells us *“to think soberly”* that means to think clear headed and wisely. To think with a humbled heart, not to allow pride and arrogance to destroy us. As Christians we must remember who we are in this life and in our churches. We are sinner whom God graciously redeemed by the blood of His Lamb, and we will die sinners saved by grace. Life is a fight between living godly and sinning. We sometimes forget what sin is, what is classified as sin, *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”* 1 John 3:4. We must never forget who we were as lost souls, and who we are as redeemed believers in Jesus Christ. We are still sinners, but our sins are hidden in Christ and forgiven before God in Christ. Our goal as Christians is to never sin, and to be as close to being Christ-like as we can. However, we can rest assured that in-Christ we are as pure as pure can be defined. *“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.”* 1 John 3:5. God has forgiven every sin we will ever commit, none will not be forgiven. The difference between sinner and non-sinners is grace given to us by God and through Jesus Christ. Everything we are as Christians we are by God's grace and through Jesus's blood. What we are as Christians depends on the measure of grace God gives us and the measure of faith God gives us. No Christian can be a good and godly believer until we recognize in our hearts the measure of grace God has given us to accomplish that godliness. However, it expands beyond grace and includes our faith. The Apostle Paul speaks of both grace and faith in 1 Corinthians 15:10 *“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”* Paul wrote that everything he was as a believer he was by God's grace, the faith here is *“but I laboured more abundantly than they all”* this is his faith, his Christian life was full of trials and tribulations, but His faith kept him strong.

“Grace is given to us; God has a measure for every believer.” Continued

Now notice Paul's last words here, *“yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”* Paul never was filled with pride, but he had a very humbled heart, He gave God all credit by understanding that it was not Him, even though he labored more abundantly than the rest, it was still not him but rather that measure of grace God gave him in faith and strength to accomplish. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 *“And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”* Paul wrote *“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves”* why, because we are all just an instrument in the hands of God. Whether it's our living godly, being a church member, or pastor of a church, we live, we move, and have our being by God's grace, and all accomplishments are by the measure of our God given faith. Let us always remember these words *“to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;”*

