

CHRIST'S SUDDEN SECOND COMING

Pastor Jose F. Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

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I Thess.4:13-18 & 2 Thess.1:7-10

I would like to speak this morning on the subject of, **CHRIST'S SUDDEN SECOND COMING!** We will take a short break from our study in Revelation 3:1-6, on the Church of Sardis. The doctrine of Christ's second coming is a very important truth clearly set forth in the Bible. Jesus Christ is coming back, He is coming back for His people and He will also come in awful judgment to destroy all those who obey not the gospel. I decided to take up this subject because this week the movie 2012 was released. It's about the Mayan's calendar depicting the end of the world in 2012 when all the planets supposedly will be aligned and catastrophe will come to end the world. It might make for a good movie, good special effects, but the end of the world will only come when Jesus Christ comes back the second time.

Therefore, let us be ready to give an answer when people inquire as to the end of days and not shy away. Let also be bold in presenting the teaching regarding the second coming of Christ. Jesus Christ came the first time in holy humiliation to redeem His people, but He shall come the second time in power and great glory. He will resurrect from the grave all those who have died in Him, but those who remain alive, that are His, at His second coming will be immediately, yea in the twinkling of an eye, translated and change into a glorified body and shall forever be with the Lord. Yes, the second coming of Jesus Christ will be in unbelievable glory at that last day, when this world shall come to an end. Right now we are in that intermediate state between the first and second coming of Christ. The centerpiece of eschatology is our blessed hope, that is, the second coming of Christ. Our hope and expectation of the future is focus upon the second coming of Christ. This is what Paul basically said in Titus 2:13, "*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*" There is no way to cover every aspect of Christ's second coming in one sermon so I will give you as much as I can.

Now, I know that we have differences as to the events that will transpire at Christ's second coming, but I believe that we can all agree on these two facts:

- Jesus Christ is coming back.
- His second coming will be bodily and visible.

Share the different views: Dispensation Pre-mil, Historic Pre-mil, Post-mil, Preterit and the A-Mil position. There are also, so many strange and various teaching concerning the second coming of Christ, thus the need to maintain a Biblical understanding regarding His second coming and not get caught in all the hype written in books, but only that which is written in the Book, the BIBLE! A lot that is written in our day, I call Christian Science fiction. So many are caught up in plain and foolish mysticism

regarding the second coming. Some are caught up in some Bible codes, as though, they have the inside in unraveling secret hidden codes found in the Bible. But if we believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures and the infallibility and inerrancy of the Scriptures, then we must also believe in the perspicuity of the Scriptures, that is, the clarity of the Scriptures. There are no hidden codes in the Bible, because the Bible is the Revelation of God to us. The Bible is very clear regarding the second coming of Christ, the only thing left out is that we don't know the day or hour when He is coming back. Matthew 25:13, "*Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*" Mark 13:32 says, "*But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*" But as far as the doctrine of the second coming it is very clear, that Jesus Christ is coming back and that you better be ready.

The first coming of Christ inaugurated the last days. I hear people talking about how we are in the last days as though it is something applied only to our time. We have been in the last days for over 2000 years. When Christ came the first time, He inaugurated the last days. Now, the Bible is clear in making a distinction between the last days and the last day. Again, Christ first coming ushered in the last days. Remember on the Day of Pentecost, Peter is preaching under the power of the Holy Spirit and he quotes directly from Joel 2:28-32 in Acts 2:14-21, please turn to Acts 2. Notice what the writer of Hebrews says in the beginning of his epistle, Hebrews 1:1 ff. Last days refer to a period of time covering a number of things and events, but the LAST DAY is speaking about a single event at any moment! This event is spoken in the singular:

- The DAY of judgment
- The DAY of the resurrection
- The DAY of wrath
- The DAY of our Lord Jesus Christ
- The DAY of redemption
- The DAY of His Second Coming
- The DAY of the Lord
- The DAY of Christ
- The DAY of God (get a concordance and look up all these phrases I purposely didn't put the verses, also look up The Last Day')

Turn to Matthew 7:22, 10:15, 11:22, 12:36; Luke 17:24, 30; John 6:39, 40, 44, 54, 11:24, 12:48; Romans 2:5. These and other Scriptures point to the clear fact that Christ is coming back on a particular day rather than an extended series of more than one day. We are in the last days which draw us closer to that particular day when Christ shall come back, you better be ready for that day.

Let's look at the words of Christ Himself in establishing this fact regarding His coming will be in that particular DAY: Notice the distinction use between days and day: Turn to

Luke 17:24-31. Christ compares the days of Noah and Lot, that is, He likens the climax of these two events to the event of His coming. During the days of Noah and Lot they were eating, drinking, getting married, that is, they were not concerned one bit about the things of God. The same thing will happen when Christ comes back, people will go on as usual in their everyday lives and then there will come a day, a singular day, a particular day when everyone will be called to give account before God.

Here are a few facts concerning the second coming of Christ:

- It will come suddenly: 2 Thess.1:7 – 10, “*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) **in that day.**” Rev. 1:7, “*Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*” Luke 17:24, “*For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.*”*
- It will come unexpectedly: Matt.24:37-44. Christ’s second coming will be like a thief in the night. I Thess.5:1-4.
- It will come assuredly: John 14:3, “*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*”
- It will be in the same manner as which He left: Acts 1:9-11, “*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 stedfastly 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.*” He will come in a physical body, the same body which hung upon the cross. His body will be so glorious, bright, wherein it shall be seen by all and heard by all! He will come in clouds accompany by His mighty angels and His bride.
- When Christ comes back there will be a mighty resurrection: John 5:28-29, “*Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*” First we have the resurrection of the just. In other words the Christians will be raised to immortality, life and eternal glory. Unbelievable, but the bodies of the saints shall be gathered from the dust and in those bodies they shall see the LORD! Then there is also the resurrection of the wicked. The wicked, ungodly, unbelieving shall also be raised and their bodies shall also become immortal and they will experience everlasting damnation in hell.
- The second coming of Christ shall also usher in a new heaven and a new earth: Romans 8:18-23 and 2 Peter 3:10-14, “*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt*

with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” Look also at verse 7, “*But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*”

There is much written in the Bible regarding the second coming of Christ. This is our blessed hope which we should anticipate. Again, in 1 Thess. 4:16 - 18 says, “*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*” The Lord Himself is going to descend from heaven and our great and mighty KING shall come again with a shout or triumph of victory and with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God shall sound. Remember, He came the first time and was despised and rejected of men. He came in holy humiliation, in a sanctified sorrow to suffer and die. But when He comes the second time, HE WILL COME IN GREAT GLORY AND POWER! Notice again the words of Paul in 2 Thess 1:7-10, “*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) **in that day.***” That trumpet blast shall gloriously announce one day: HE’S COMING BACK HE’S COMING BACK HE’S COMING BACK! Every ear shall hear the trumpet sound which shall bring everything to an end.

Oh dear children of the most High God, don’t look down in despair, no, but lift up your heads and hearts with anticipating hope of this great DAY! Our LORD is coming back, OUR SAVIOR is coming back, OUR REDEEMER is coming back, OUR GREAT GOD IS COMING BACK in POWER AND GLORY! He promised, I WILL COME AGAIN: He is coming for us, He is coming for His bride, He is coming for His elect and He is coming for His people: HE IS COMING SOON! Yes, He who died for me has resurrected and promises to come back for me. Is He coming for you or is He coming to judge you?

Remember Paul said that we are to comfort ourselves with these words: Turn quickly to 1 Cor.15:20-26, 51-58. How about you are you ready for Christ’s second coming? In that last day, a trumpet shall sound and in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, yes, that fast and quick we will be changed and caught up with Him and we shall ever be with the LORD! Like Elijah of old, we shall in an instance be swept in an unspeakable glory to be arrayed in a glorious body. It could happen today, will you be ready.

End with reading Revelation 6:9-17. Let’s pray.