

# The Basics of Christianity

## The Second Coming of Christ

Matt. 25:31-33

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Matthew 25:31-33 (NASB95)

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# The Basics of Christianity

## The Second Coming of Christ

**Matt. 25:31-33**

### INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are continuing with "The Basics of Christianity" series. This morning we are going to consider The Second Coming of Christ.

During this series we have learned that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament. He came to show us the ways of God and bring us salvation by paying the price of our sins by dying on the cross. He also performed miracles among us to prove that what He had taught was approved by God, the Father. His ultimate miracle was when He rose from the grave on the third day after His death.

Because of these miracles and His ability to fulfill the prophecies concerning Him, His early disciples and the apostles were so convinced that Jesus was the Messiah that they were willing to die in order to proclaim the good news to the world. Such as Peter who wanted everyone to know that Jesus was Who He claimed to be. Peter said, I lived with Him and was taught by Him and I witnessed His miracles with my own eyes. I saw Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah and even some of Jesus' prophecies fulfilled before my eyes by Jesus. I saw Him crucified on the cross as He had foretold, and witnessed the supernatural events during His death on the cross (the earthquake, the darkness in the middle of the day, and the veil in the temple torn from top to bottom). I saw and spoke with Jesus, in person, after the resurrection, and I witnessed Christ's glory as He ascended into the clouds before my own eyes! Where I EVEN heard the voice of God saying "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased"! I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD!

Just as Jesus fulfilled the Messianic prophecies from the Old Testament and was true to His own teachings and prophecies, we can be just as certain that the remaining prophecies concerning His second coming and the end times will be fulfilled.

### All Stand and Read Scripture

#### **Matthew 25:31-33 (NASB95)**

<sup>31</sup> "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; <sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

As we prepare to continue on this journey, let's bow in a word of prayer.

### Prayer

In this passage, Jesus tells us "**I will come again**"! This is both a promise and a warning.

## **BODY:**

### **I. The Imminence of the Second Coming.**

The same Jesus that fulfilled the prophecies concerning the Messiah of the Old Testament and performed all of the miracles around Peter and the apostles. The same Jesus that died on the cross and resurrected from the grave three days later as He had promised. The same Jesus that Peter saw ascend into Heaven in glory. This same Jesus has promised that He is coming again. Although it may seem that it has been a very long time since He made that promise, **do not be deceived! HE IS COMING AGAIN!**

The Bible tells us that the coming of Christ is imminent, which means that it could happen at any moment.

#### **Matthew 24:42 (NASB95)**

<sup>42</sup> "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

Paul teaches that every Christian must expect at any moment that Jesus will soon return to the earth.

## **ILLUSTRATION:**

The story is told of a businessman who was called in to do some emergency work at the office. Since no one was home, he took his young son along with him. He asked the boy to wait in the front reception area while he went to his office to do his work. Soon he became so engrossed with his business that he forgot about his son waiting in the front lobby. Leaving the building by a different door, he went home alone. Several hours later the family sat down to dinner, but the son was not present. His mother became anxious and wondered where he might be. Then the father remembered where he left his son. Hurrying back to office, he found his son, tired and hungry, waiting as he had been instructed to do. "I knew that you would come, father," he said, "you said you would."

It's been 2000 years and some of God's children feel tired and hungry. We wonder why Jesus hasn't come back yet. Perhaps he has forgotten us. Perhaps he made other plans. If you feel like that little boy, take heart. He said he would come back—and he will. All true Christians believe with certainty that Jesus will come back someday. He said he would—and he never forgets his promises.

#### **2 Peter 3:9-15a (NASB95)**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will

melt with intense heat! <sup>13</sup> But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, <sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation;

We are told that Christ IS coming again. His return is imminent! It may seem that 2000 years is a long time. But Peter tells us that God is waiting for all of His sheep to be found.

The word imminent does not mean immediate. When we use the word imminent for the Second Coming, it means that His return is certain. Therefore Mark gives us this warning:

### **Mark 13:33 (NASB95)**

<sup>33</sup> “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come.

This should warn us against the danger of setting dates and reading too much into the “signs” of the end times. Jesus wants us to understand that knowing the exact date is not important but being ready is!

So...Let’s be ready for His coming!

## **II. The Second Coming is a Promise.**

There are differences surrounding Jesus first coming and his second coming. The first time Jesus came only a few (the shepherds and the wise men) acknowledged His arrival. When He comes again “**every eye will see him**” even those who have died and gone to the grave.

### **Revelation 1:7 (NASB95)**

<sup>7</sup> Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and **every eye will see Him**, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

In his first coming Jesus humbled himself, being born in a stable in Bethlehem. When he returns, he will come back as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The first time he came he was judged and sentenced by the people according to their wrong standards, but when he comes the second time, **he will judge every person** according to God’s standard.

Jesus warned us time and again in His teachings and in His parables that the second coming will be for judgment. He will be coming to separate the sheep from the goats.

### **Matthew 25:31-34 (NASB95)**

<sup>31</sup> “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; <sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

So the obvious question is "**How do you become a sheep?**"

Jesus teaches that we become a "sheep" by loving God and serving our fellow man.

**Matthew 25:35-36 (NASB95)**

*<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; <sup>36</sup> naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'*

Remember the parable of the ten virgins? Five were foolish and five were wise. The ten virgins were waiting with their lamps to meet the bridegroom. But the bridegroom delayed his coming. When the bridegroom was finally announced several hours later, the foolish virgins were caught out searching for oil for their lamps. While they were away trying to get oil, the bridegroom arrived and the wise virgins went in with him to the wedding feast. The wise virgins represents a person who has a true faith in Christ and has the "**OIL**" or indwelling of the Holy Spirit in them. Only those who are truly saved will be prepared for the Lord's return.

When the bridegroom finally arrived He found the five wise virgins still waiting for Him, but the foolish virgins were unprepared for His coming. Notice what happens:

**Matthew 25:10 (NASB95)**

*<sup>10</sup> And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.*

Jesus warns us again to be ready for his return in the **parable of the talents**. A master was about to go on a journey and he left five talents to one of his slaves, two talents to another, and one talent to a third slave. The master went on a very long journey. When he returned, he settled accounts with each of them. The two men who received the five and two talents each doubled their talents.

Again, listen to Jesus' reply.

**Matthew 25:20-21 (NASB95)**

*<sup>20</sup> The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*

When we finally realize what Christ did for us by dying on the cross and we become a Child of God, **our life WILL be changed**. We no longer desire to sin against God. We go to work for our Master. We strive to be a good and faithful servant by loving God and loving others as we love ourselves. We strive to use our talents to further His kingdom and give glory to God. We acknowledge his blessings. **We live a new life in Christ!** Our faith will be accompanied by works out of thankfulness for our salvation in Christ and produce fruit.

### **III. The Second Coming is Also a Warning.**

Christ's second coming will be a glorious day for those who are true Christians. But it will be a terrifying day for those who are not ready for His return. Let's look at Matthew 25 once again.

### **Matthew 25:31-33, 41 (NASB95)**

<sup>31</sup> “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; <sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

<sup>41</sup> “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

What circumstances cause us to be a goat?

In this parable Jesus teaches that when we fail to show our faithfulness by not loving and serving our fellow man then we are not a true follower of Christ. I am afraid that too many people believe they will be saved because they proclaimed that Jesus was the Christ. But many of them will not live a new life serving God and others.

Jesus made it clear that we are to live a new life in Him. He gave us a way to know if a person is a true disciple.

### **John 13:34-35 (NASB95)**

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Remember the parable of the ten virgins? Five were foolish and five were wise. The ten virgins were waiting with their lamps to meet the bridegroom. But the bridegroom delayed his coming. When the bridegroom was finally announced several hours later, the foolish virgins were caught without oil for their lamps. The foolish virgins had to leave to get oil. When they returned they found the door closed. Then the five foolish virgins knocked on the door. Listen to the bridegroom's reply:

### **Matthew 25:11-13 (NASB95)**

<sup>11</sup> Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered, **‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’** <sup>13</sup> Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

The foolish virgins represent a person who proclaims to believe in Christ but does not live their life for God. They do not have the Holy Spirit in them. Only those who are truly saved will be prepared for the Lord's return.

Going back to the parable of the talents. Remember the slave who received only one talent? He buried it in the ground.

Again, listen to Jesus' reply.

### **Matthew 25:26-30 (NASB95)**

<sup>26</sup> “But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. <sup>28</sup> Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

<sup>29</sup> “For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. <sup>30</sup> Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

So what have we learned about Christ's second coming?

We do **not** know the day or the hour that He is coming, but we **do know** that His return is imminent.

We must be prepared for his coming by accepting His free gift of salvation.

We must live a new life in Christ by avoiding sin, loving God, and serving others.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Jesus **IS** coming again. Our world as we know it is going to be destroyed by fire along with all of the treasures that are on the earth. God is preparing a new set of heavens and a new earth for those who accept His free gift of salvation through His son where we will live with Him for eternity. Our goal in life must be to be prepared for that time.

Are you ready to die? Will Christ's second coming be a **glorious event** or will it be a **terrifying event** for you? The time is coming in the future when **you** will be standing in front of Christ in judgment. You will hear one of two different responses from Him.

Will you hear what is written in...

### **Matthew 25:21b (NASB95)**

‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Or will you hear what is written in...

### **Matthew 25:41b (NASB95)**

<sup>41</sup> “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

Every person who has ever lived on this earth **will** hear one of these responses! God has not promised us a tomorrow! **Your eternity depends upon the decisions you make today.** When you pass from this world or when Christ comes again it will be too late.

**He is Lord!**