

ICTHUS
Class 7: The Return of Christ

I. REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

- A. Christ's Humiliation
 - 1. The Manger– Incarnation
 - 2. The River – Baptism
 - 3. The Mountain – Transfiguration
 - 4. The Cross – Passion
- B. Christ's Exaltation
 - 1. The Tomb – Resurrection
 - 2. The Throne – Ascension
 - 3. TODAY: The Return – (Second) Coming

John Trapp: “Pinned like a badge to the sleeve of every Christian is that he looks for and longs for the second coming of Christ.”

II. THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. **Lead Text: 1 Thess. 4:13-18**; the “*Parousia*” (meaning: “arrival or coming,” especially of a royal official or king).
 - 1. Jesus Christ, the risen and ascended king, is returning in glory to consummate the Kingdom.
 - 2. The consummation of the exaltation of Christ Jesus
- B. What concern of the Thessalonian church is Paul addressing?
- C. **The Biblical Response:**
 - 1. Those who have died before the return of Christ
 - a. The “intermediate state” of “those who have fallen asleep” (1 Thess. 4:13; 1 Cor. 15:18-20)
 - b. Are Christians embodied or disembodied in the intermediate state? (See 2 Cor. 5:1-5)
 - c. Westminster Confession Article 32
 - 2. **The return of Christ – Essential Principles**
 - a. **One event, not two** (See Mat. 24:3-14, 14 and attached chart “Comparison of Christian Millennial Teachings”; Christian *Eschatology*);
 - b. **An unpredictable event**; Acts 1:6-7; Mat. 24:23-27.
 - c. **A triumphant event**; 1 Thess. 4:16;

- (i) Declaration of present reality; Mt. 28:18;
- (ii) Irresistible by Satanic power; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; 8-10 or human forces (Rev. 19:17-21)
- d. **A personal event;** Acts 1:11 – return of the embodied Christ)
- e. **An audible event;** 1 Thess. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; Zech. 9:14-15
- f. **A visual event;** Rev. 1:5-7
- g. **A transformational event;;**
 - (i) compare 2 Cor. 3:18 – completion of what Christ has already begun
 - (ii) 1 Cor. 15:50-52 - resurrection and glorification, not just resuscitation (compare Mt. 27:50-53)
 - (iii) Ro. 6:4-5: The death and resurrection of Christ guarantees our resurrection with Him
- h. **A joyful event** (for Christians), both now (Ro. 5:2) and then (Phil 3:20-21)

III. APPLICATIONS: WHAT DOES THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST MEAN TO THE CHURCH?

- A. **The centrality of Jesus Christ** in Christian *eschatology*, as in all of Scripture; Eph. 1:19-22
- B. **Present joy; future joy;** Mark 10:29-30; compare 1 Cor. 15:13-19 (no hope without Christ's resurrection)
- C. **The Lord's Table;** compare 1 Cor. 11:26 to Rev. 19:6-9
- D. **The same Lord,** "yesterday and today and forever." Heb. 13:8