

# The Coming of the Son of Man – Luke 17:22-37

By Brent Paschall [brent@brentnrachel.com]

Presented 10/2011 at Blue Ridge Church of Christ, Roanoke, VA [blueridgecoc.org]

- I. Introduction
  - a. For the Christian, the return of Jesus Christ the most anticipated event they can look forward to.
  - b. In our lesson on the resurrection last week, we examined the assurance the scriptures provide that this life is not all there is
    - i. Jesus was raised from the dead
    - ii. We will be, too
    - iii. And with incorruptible, sin-free, eternal, spiritual bodies
    - iv. That is very special
  - c. But the very best thing about the life to come, is that we will be in the presence and fellowship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
- II. Key Thought: In this text, Jesus gives important information for Christians about his return
- III. We do not have to wait until Jesus' return to be part of the kingdom of heaven – v. 20-21
  - a. Pharisees
    - i. Like most Jews, they expected a physical kingdom to arrive when the Messiah came
    - ii. Jesus was making the claim to be the Christ,
      - 1. But where was his kingdom?
      - 2. Shouldn't it be on its way by now?
    - iii. Jesus said, in effect,
      - 1. It is already here
      - 2. You won't see it if you are looking for your own ideas of the kingdom
      - 3. But the real kingdom is already active in your midst
        - a. Not within you – these were unbelieving Pharisees
        - b. Among you, in your midst
        - c. They were in the presence of the king of that kingdom
        - d. And many of the subjects of the kingdom
        - e. But they did not recognize it
  - b. Today
    - i. Those who look forward to the millennial kingdom
      - 1. Many still think that Jesus should have set up an earthly kingdom while he was here on earth
        - a. Since he didn't do it the first time,
        - b. He will surely do it when he comes again
      - 2. They are wrong!
      - 3. Jesus is already reigning, and will reign until every enemy is destroyed – 1 Cor. 15:25-26

- a. He is reigning on David's throne as the Christ – Acts 2:29-33
    - b. As a descendant of David and Coniah he will never rule in Jerusalem on earth, as some suppose – Jer. 22:28-30
    - c. He is reigning in heaven
    - d. His willing subjects render him the service and obedience of loyal faithful hearts
    - e. But eventually, all will submit to him, willing or not – Phil. 2:9-11
  - 4. Just as it was in the time of Jesus, the kingdom of heaven is in our midst
    - a. It is present on earth
- IV. No one alive will miss the coming of Jesus Christ – v. 22-25
  - a. It may be a long time coming
    - i. Those who love Jesus will urgently desire it
    - ii. They will long for it
    - iii. Many would not see it before their lives ended
  - b. Some will think they can predict it
    - i. Lo here, Lo there
    - ii. Nope
  - c. We don't need anyone to tell us where to look
    - i. When he comes, everyone will know it
    - ii. Lightening illuminates the whole sky at once
    - iii. Jesus will illuminate the whole world at once
  - d. Jesus had to complete his first mission before he could begin his second – v. 25
- V. In the meantime, the world as a whole will grow so accustomed to Christ being absent that they will be wholly unprepared – v. 26-32
  - a. Like in the days of Noah
    - i. Busy
    - ii. Unsuspecting
    - iii. Disaster
  - b. Like in the days of Lot
    - i. Busy
    - ii. Unsuspecting
    - iii. Disaster
  - c. Christ's coming will be the same
    - i. Busy
    - ii. Unsuspecting
    - iii. Disaster!
  - d. Maintain the right relationship between yourself and the things of this world
    - i. If you would need to return home to be prepared for Christ return, you are not prepared

- ii. Do not be so attached to these things that we would hesitate for a moment to go
        - 1. It is hard to live that way
        - 2. But it is harder to not live that way
    - e. Remember Lot's wife
- VI. Success will depend on acting contrary to our worldly inclinations – v. 33
  - a. Our physical life
    - i. If we try to save it we will lose it
    - ii. If we don't try to save it, we will still lose it
  - b. But the physical life can do one thing
    - i. If used properly, we can be assured of an eternal spiritual life
    - ii. We must lose this life to gain that life
    - iii. But are much the better for it, by far
- VII. There will be a great separation – v. 34-37
  - a. Some taken
    - i. To meet the Lord in the air – 1 The. 4:16-18
  - b. Others left
    - i. The closest companions will be separated
      - 1. If one is ready and other is not
    - ii. The most inseparable friends will be divided one from another
      - 1. If one is ready and the other is not
    - iii. Family members who have never been apart
      - 1. One will be taken and the other left
    - iv. We have no control over whether our family, friends and neighbors choose to faithfully follow the Lord
      - 1. It is an individual decision
      - 2. However
        - a. If we do not want to be separated from them eternally
        - b. We would do well to do everything in our power to encourage them to get ready and stay ready
        - c. So that all can be taken and none left
  - c. Left where?
    - i. Where the eagles of God's wrath and punishment will descend upon the wicked and unfaithful
- VIII. Conclusion
  - a. Invitation