



Wayne's Words

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Sunday 28th November, 2021



Advent – The Promise of His Coming

The season of Advent draws our attention to the promise of Jesus that he will come again.

One helpfully clear description of Christ's return that does not feature in our Sunday readings is from 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11. Here the sequence of events is described. The Lord Jesus will come from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God.

Those who have died in Christ will be raised. Then those who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. The sense is of the company of believers going out to meet the returning victorious commander of the armies as was the practice of the Romans at the time.

While there are many interpretations of exactly how things all happen from there, what is clear is that there will be a final judgment where 'the books will be opened' and those whose names are not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life will face an eternity without God. This is a rousing call for believers in Christ to give themselves wholeheartedly to sharing the testimony of Christ at every opportunity to all they possibly can. It is the reason that mission is at the heart of the life of the church.

This brings us back to the other command of Christ I alluded to last week – to 'go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them and teaching them to obey all that [Jesus commanded us]'. This is our calling.

God desires that none should perish, but that all may come to a knowledge of repentance and eternal life – and so share in the new heaven and the new earth where every tear will be wiped away and where there will be no more mourning or crying or pain. God will dwell among his people and so the loving harmony and purity of relationship for which God originally created us will at last, through Christ, be restored. So 'encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.'

(Readings used also include Revelation 20:11-21:5, Matthew 28:19-20).

God bless,

Wayne