

7 7 7 Week of Prayer

Saturday: 'Jesus Returning' – praying in light of the promised return of Christ

PRAISE

O Lord my God, when I in awesome
wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have
made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r thru-out the universe displayed!

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to
Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to
Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I
wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain
grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle
breeze...

And when I think that God, His Son not
sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in –
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin!

When Christ shall come with shout of
acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my
heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great
Thou art!

PONDER

There are various interpretations and understandings regarding the details of Christ's return, but what all evangelicals do affirm is...

The promised sudden, personal, visible, bodily return of Christ

⁹ *After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

¹⁰ *They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'* **Acts 1:9-11**

¹⁶ *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God..."* **1 Thessalonians 4:16**

⁴⁴ *So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.* **Matthew 24:44**

We should eagerly long for Christ's return

²⁰ *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.* **Philippians 3:20**

Amen, Come Lord Jesus. **Revelation 22:20**

The ultimate result of Christ's return will be the judgment of evil and the final reward of believers

For God has set a day when he will judge the earth with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead." **Acts 17:31**

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **Matthew 25:31-32**

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will repay each person according to what they have done."^[a] ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. **Romans 2:5-8**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **2 Corinthians 5:10** [note – for the person trusting in Christ, this is a judgment of evaluation, not of condemnation – see Romand 8:1]

Living and PRAYING in view of Christ's return

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. **Titus 2:11-14**

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

PRAY

Use the passages above to give focus to your prayers, giving thanks for the hope we have, Christ's victory over evil, as well as praying with urgency for those outside of Christ.

Use the song 'Press On' by the Getty's to conclude your time of prayer, and indeed this week of prayer. Thanks for participating!!!