

# Human Value And Responsibility

The people of God, Christians who are living between two mighty spiritual events, Jesus Christ's Incarnation and His promised Second Coming, are not living in a vacuum.

Christians have much to do and little time to do it.

**Luke 19:10-13** [King James] *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.”*

Jesus Christ, referring to His Second Coming, told His disciples to use the time from that moment of His first coming and His second coming to accomplish certain things.

The disciples had been given specific directions and Jesus Christ in His final instructions would give them more.

**Matthew 4:23** [King James] *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”*

By personal example Jesus Christ taught His disciples to preach about the coming Kingdom of God.

**Matthew 28:18-20** [NIV] *“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”*

Disciples instructed to prepare a people for the coming of the Kingdom of God, expanding on the teaching of repentance that John the Baptist preached. [**Mark 1:1-5**]

Paul in his letter to Titus refers to how this time between the two comings of Jesus Christ should be used.

**Titus 2:11-14** [NIV] *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, 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.”*

Again the theme is the preparing of people ready for Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

I have heard of a quotation from a denominational bishop who estimated that only about ten percent of the men and women in the membership of his church body are prepared and spiritually ready to die when their time comes.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** [NIV] *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 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, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

Those Christians who have died and all who are still physically alive at Jesus Christ's Second Coming will be changed, a type of physical death. [1 Corinthians 15:35-54]

**I believe and scriptures back-up this statement that we can only die well when you have lived well, from a spiritual point of view.**

This doctrine of the Christian life and spiritual maturity is taught by Paul in his letter to Titus.

Paul identifies Jesus Christ as the Saviour "*who gave Himself for us.*"

**We can quickly learn the value of any object by the price that people are willing to pay for it.**

**It is in this sense, then, that we learn how dear and precious we are to our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

In true humility think as little of yourself as you want to and need to, but always remember that our Lord Jesus Christ thought very highly of you, enough to give in a personal sacrifice of His own life to purchase us. [Acts 20:28]

**Remembering this purchase price will counter any thoughts of uselessness Satan may inject into our mind.**

Paul also reminds us that Jesus Christ also performs a purifying work in the people of God.

*"To purify for Himself a people that are His very own."*

**You will have to agree with me that one of the deep and out-broken diseases of this present world and society is impurity, and it displays itself in dozens of symptoms.**

The lewd and indecent physical actions are the product of what starts in the mind.

**Impurity is not just a wrong action, it is the state of mind and heart which is the opposite of purity and wholeness.**

Sexual misconduct is a symptom of the disease of impurity in the mind, but also is hatred, pride, egotism, resentfulness and churlishness.

We have to add to this gluttony, slothfulness and self-indulgence.

**It is the work of Jesus Christ to purify His chosen people.**

These special people were characterised by one thing in Paul's letter to Titus, "*eager to do what is good*" or in the King James translated "*zealous of good works.*"

True Christians not only believe in Jesus' Second Coming but are preparing to be His "*special people.*"

**Matthew 24:3, 21-22** [NIV] "*As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. 'Tell us,' they said, 'when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?'*" ... "*For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be equalled again. If those days had not been cut short, no-one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.*"

The "*elect*" or "*special people*" feature in the time of Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

The true Christian lives in joyful anticipation of the return of Jesus Christ and this is such an important part of the truth that Satan has always been fighting it and ridiculing it. One of Satan's big successes is being able to get people to argue about the Second Coming rather than preparing and waiting for it.

This debating as to whether He has or is coming or the use of proof texts about the fall of Rome and the identification of the antichrist detract from the importance of personal preparation for the event.

Paul expands on both First and Second Coming of Jesus Christ in his letters to Timothy and all the Church.

**2 Timothy 1:8-10** [NIV] *“So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life, not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*

In this passage of scripture we have the record of Jesus Christ’s First Coming that we should be preaching as part of the Gospel Message.

**1 Timothy 6:10-16** [NIV] *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, **I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time, God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no-one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might for ever. Amen.”***

**Paul reminds all Christians the need to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, when He will leave no doubt at all, as to the Person of the King of kings and Lord of lords.**

**How strange it is that the majority of Christian pulpits are completely silent concerning this glorious truth of the imminent return of Jesus Christ.**

It is paradoxical that there should be this great silence in the Christian churches at the very time when the danger of humanity being swept off the face of the earth is greater than it has ever been.

Nuclear bombs are still stockpiling in “overkill” amounts and this destructive force is now becoming available to small but very volatile nations as well as the superpowers.

**Matthew 24:6-14** [NIV] *“You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth-pains. ‘Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.’”*

We **cannot** ignore these warning words of our Lord and Saviour.

This is **not** a time for arguments about post-tribulation rapture and pre-tribulation rapture, post-millennialism, a-millennialism and pre-millennialism, right at the time when overkill of humans hangs over us like a black threatening cloud.

**At such a time as this Christians should be so alert to the hope and promise of Jesus Christ’s Second Coming that it is what prompts our conduct on an hour-by-hour basis.**

Yet we find great segments of Christians who seem to be able to blithely ignore the whole matter of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

**Very few ministers bother to preach from the Book of Revelation anymore.**

**2 Peter 3:10-14** [NIV] *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”*

This is very valuable advice for every Christian in every generation, but perhaps more so for this present generation. *“Speed it’s coming”* – could this be referring to the lack or otherwise of the personal preparation of God’s people for that day?

**Matthew 24:33-35** [NIV] *“Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”*

The generation that this refers to is the one that sees all the events listed by Jesus Christ happen.