

Ancient Faith Part IX

"and He will come to judge
the living and the dead"



Trinity Baptist Students

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The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of Heaven and Earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into Heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church (the word catholic means "universal")
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

And He Will Come

We have discussed Jesus' first coming. Now it's time to discuss what happens next.

Read Acts 1:11.

What do we read is going to happen one day?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

What does Paul say here has happened to believers? What has God done for them? And, what are believers waiting for?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

What does Paul say is going to happen?

To Judge

We often discuss the finished work of Christ for our salvation. We don't often discuss what Jesus will be doing when He returns. Read the following passages of Scripture and describe what Jesus will be doing when he returns, what all people will be doing, and what you, personally will be doing.

2 Corinthians 5:10 _____

Acts 17:30-31 _____

Revelation 6:15-17 _____

"The dread and terror that would seize upon all sorts of men in that great and awful day, v. 15. The degree of their terror and astonishment; it should prevail so far as to make them call to the mountains to fall upon them, and to the hills to cover them. The cause of their terror—the wrath of the Lamb. Though God be invisible, he can make the inhabitants of this world sensible of his awful frowns. Though Christ be a lamb, yet he can be angry, and the wrath of the Lamb is exceedingly dreadful. As men have their day of opportunity, and their seasons of grace, so God has His day of righteous wrath."—Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary*, Zondervan, 1961 p. 1976

The Living and the Dead

As a child I would do something that I knew was wrong and then attempt to evade the coming punishment. I don't think that this impulse has gone away. I think that a lot of you feel that as well. We think ourselves either able to figure out a way out of the coming Judgment or just push off thinking about it.

By saying that Jesus will come to judge "the living and the dead", there are certain groups of people that will face the judgment. Who are they? Does anyone fit outside of the categories "the living and the dead"?

Read

Hebrews 9:27-28 Who will face judgment? What did Christ do for us so that we didn't have to face the judgment?

Matthew 25:31-46: Who is at this judgment? What does Jesus do?

Revelation 20:11-15: Who is at the judgment? What happens here?

Making it Personal

Will you be one of the people that stands before Christ at the Judgment? _____

If you were to be there right now what would the end result be? How would you be judged? Why?



What Should Our Attitude Be?

If something this big is going to happen in the future then it should change the way we think and behave. The return of Christ to judge all people is a cataclysmic event. It has to do something to us. Now, consider what Peter says this coming event should do for us.

Read 2 Peter 3 and consider what this means for you.

When will Jesus return? Will it be sudden? _____

What kind of life should you lead because of this? _____

What are we waiting for? What are we hoping for? _____

What should you be doing while you wait? _____

What are some changes that you need to make in your life? _____

"...The atmosphere of the apostolic age was electrified with expectancy that God would soon complete what he had begun. The apostles worked, taught, and lived as if time were short. More than 2,000 years later we should do no less, for the time assuredly is shorter. But there is a woeful neglect of serious investigation into the future hope of Christianity. It is not an area we should slight....We are commanded to watch....There remains another chapter in redemptive history: a future to the work of Christ. He has ascended; he has departed; but he left the world with an unequivocal promise that he will return. The final petition recorded in the New Testament is the plea, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20). –R. C. Sproul, *"What We Believe"* 2015, Baker Books, p. 161

In an age when people set dates, it makes the news, and it doesn't come to pass it is easy to ignore this clear teaching in Scripture. This is not how we should be. We need to be people who are longing and expecting the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Read Revelation 22:17.

If you are reading this and have not trusted Christ, the invitation of Revelation 22:17 is for you.

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.