LD 19#3

Advent in NT is *looking forward to X’s second coming*

The Return of the Judge of the quick and the dead 1) He comes as Savior to redeem His people 2) He comes as a Judge to condemn His enemies

I. Jesus Christ’s return is *to redeem His people as Savior-Judge*

A. Remarkable q. asking for “comfort of X’s return to judge living/dead”

 1. Do you consider that a *day of comfort or day of terror?*

a. picture 2 Cor. 5:9-11; Rev. 20:12; Romans 2:5-6

 2. Wishing/ignoring/forgetting doesn’t make this day *disappear!*

a. instead: *prepare to meet Thy God, O Israel* (Amos 4:12-13)

 3. How prepare – what must we/I do to prepare?

 a. Listen to God’s answer: *Joel 2:12-14*!

 - get serious about this *b/c it is serious business!*

 - seek God as publican sought Him: *looking at X, seek for mercy*

 - know that ax is already *laying ready at root of your tree: woe,*

*if there are no fruits worthy of name repentance!*

 - linger not like Lot’s wife – use not God’s time of grace to

 fatten yourself on earth and comfort yourself with vanity

 - fear not them which kill the body but can’t touch your soul: but

 fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell!

 b. Be encouraged that *God looks w/ pleasure upon those who*

 *tremble at His Word and seek cover in X b/c God is holy!!*

 - He never will cast out sinners that come unto Him with ‘ropes

of condemnation around their neck’

B. Christ’s return is *comforting for His Church*: day of great joy!

 1. Here on earth *we will face many tribulations – trials – setbacks –*

 *opposition – rejection – failings of us/others*

 a. Jesus never hit that reality: *in the world he shall have tribulation*

 *– many are the afflictions of the righteous*

b. but He never left it with *stating the reality: He held up the*

 *promise for the future*

 - Be of Good cheer: *though tribulation … I have overcome the*

 *world and will make you more than conquerors*

 - as poet: *Through Him, through Him alone, whose presence*

*goes before us, we will wear the victor’s crown, no more by foes assaulted but will triumph through our King, by Israel’s God exalted … more on this LD. 22*

 2. Why will such *be exalted – wear the victor’s crown?*

 a. b/c Son of God/man humbled Himself – took crown of thorns –

 stood as ‘Sin-bearer’ before the judgment seat of God!

b. what a picture to keep in mind as seen in John 18: *If you seek me,*

 *let these go there way … off He went to be executed for our sins!*

 - ponder His agony: *My God, my God why forsaken me!*

 - listen to His wrestling: *I sink in deep mire, where is no standing* - observe God’s sentence: *Depart from Me you transgressor!*

c. all this He did *for our sake – b/c He took our sin/guilt/stripes*

 - it is painful when we *are forgotten – our sacrifices are*

*unobserved – taken for granted – not properly pondered!*

 - if Christ could feel *pain in heaven*, this ‘forgetting – taken for

 granted’ etc would be a chief part of our Redeemer’s pain!

 3. Are you living *with uplifted head for that same Person who offered*

*Himself for your sake to the tribunal of God?*

a. is this ‘picture’ the world around us has of *us Christians?*

 - do they see us *as pilgrims on the go* or as *settlers to stay?*

 - do they hear what we hear from ‘soon-to-marry’ *.. x # days!?*

b. sadly this is *not the general picture* of our modern Christianity

 - be honest: *how does the last petition of Rev live in our hearts?*

 c. why is *His return to little anticipated -* no expectant heads of

 Believer looking/sighing: *How long Lord, how long?* **.. examine!**

 (1) b/c most present day Christians are drunk & drugged with

 the material prosperity: *disobeying Eph. 5:17-18*

 (2) b/c sense of sinfulness –evil of sin is minimal – shallow

 • do we sigh @ fountain of iniquity: *covetous eye – lustful*

*flesh – rebellious nature – snappy tongues – angry*

*outbursts – bosom sin – - sinful worry – gossipy tongues?*

 d. if we were more tender – spiritually minded – alive to evil of sin, we

would be like Samual Davies: ***Formerly I wished to live longer, that I might be better prepared for heaven; but this consideration has very little weight w/ me, and that for a very unusual reason which was this: after long trial I found this world a place so unfriendly to the growth of every thing divine and heavenly, that I was afraid if I should live longer, I should be no better fitted for heaven than I am. Indeed I have hardly any hopes of ever making any great attainments in holiness in this world, though I should be doomed to stay in it as long as Methuselah. But when I consider that I set out about 12 years old, and what hopes I had then of my future progress, and yet that I have been almost at a stand still since, I am quite discouraged. O my Master, if I may call thee so, I am afraid I shall never serve thee much better on this the regions of perfection. The thought grieves me, it breaks my heart, but I can hardly hope better. But if I have the least spark of true piety in my heart, I shall not always labor under this complaint. No my Lord, I shall yet serve thee better; serve thee through an immortal duration, with the activity, fervor and the perfection of the angels.***

C. Be of good cheer, living and sighing Church of Jesus!

 1. I believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord who **shall come to judge quick**

a. quick = living: *those made alive spiritually – living at X’s return*

 • both are true *… but consider judging of God’s Children*

 2. Also God’s children shall face the “Judge of heaven and earth”

 a. God not deal w/ sins again: Micah 7:19; Rom 5:9-11

 • to ‘forgive’ is to *send out of sight like as far as East from West*

 b. but God will judge *our services to Christ – good works*

 • various Scriptures: Matt. 25:14-46; 1 Cor. 3:10-15

 • God will reward service of His children graciously but also

fairly/justly

II. He comes as a Judge to condemn His enemies

A. Refer Noah’s time: laughed – scorned – mocked Noah’s sermon!

 1. perhaps “anniversary” of his ark-building was cause for mockery: *all*

*mind-games, Noah – you scared for nothing*

a. such voices are heard today also: 2 Peter 3:3ff

 b. but as they proved wrong in Noah’s days *… so they will in future*

 2. Perhaps you are *not in group of unbelieving* ***mockers***

 a. perhaps you are in group of *unbelieving* ***dreamers***

B. Let’s listen to God’s own voice on this matter

 1. Zeph. 1:12-18 *… fearful – solemn!*

a. picture Flood – Sodom and Gomorra in Luke 17:27-29

 • I hear them banging on door – see them running away

 2. Prov. 1: 24-31 … God will then “mock” when you plead w/ Him

 a. God will answer every plea by *opening books* (Rev. 20:12)

 • neglect of His outstretched hand

 • ignored His pleading tears straightforward warnings

 • refused to bow your knee before His kingly authority

 • you disdained His offers – trampled His love – defied His voice

of command

 • you have abused His own Word in twisted self-righteous

attitude to justify your behavior – condition

 b. He will dismiss every silly argument by which you try to justify

 w/ one sentence: *Ye would not have me King over you!*

 • refer to 2 Thess. 1:6-9

 3. Let these sacred truths *lead you to think deeply*

 a. at same time: *let His heart ready to pardon as Joseph draw you to*

 *come – confess: fear Him not for He is not like Esther’s husband*

 • golden scepter is extended before you come

 • market of free grace is still open *… Come now, and let us*

*reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*