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"CHRIST... SHALL... APPEAR THE SECOND TIME"

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28).

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself told about the day of His second coming in Luke 17. In verses 34 to 36 He said, " I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Those who love the world and look toward it will be left behind, but those who love the Lord's appearing, and look for His coming, will be caught up. it depends on which direction you are looking. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34). If Christ is your treasure you will wait for Him. In the Old Testament there is a very good example of some people who waited for their master.

David was the anointed king of Israel. His rebellious son Absalom drove him out and occupied the throne. We have that story recorded in 2 Samuel 15. David is the type of the Lord Jesus Who is rejected today. Absalom the false king speaks of the devil who rules the world today. Eventually Absalom was killed and David returned to his throne as we read in 2 Samuel 19. That is a picture of the day when the Lord Jesus Christ will come back and Satan will be defeated. While David was away as the rejected king, many people became unfaithful to him and turned to the false king. They realised that if they would not be faithful to Absalom, they would not get any favour from him. So they became unfaithful to David, the rejected king. They did not want the fellowship of David's sufferings. However, some people remained true to David. We want to consider two men who were faithful to David even in the day of his rejection.

The first one was Ittai, the Gittite. "Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? Return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, and also an exile. Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? Seeing I go whither I may, return thou..." (2 Sam. 15:19,20). But Ittai replied, "As the Lord liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be" (v.21). How wonderful it would be if we could say the same words to the Lord Jesus Christ! Ittai said, "Oh David, if you are rejected by the Israelites, then I don't want to be with them:' We also should be able to say, "Oh Lord, the world has rejected Thee and crucified Thee. Oh Lord, I don't want any fame or popularity in this world. I want to be Thy faithful follower". The Lord Jesus said in John 12:26, "...where I am, there shall also my servant be:' In other words, as He was on the cross, so must we be willing to bear the cross. After His death, He went up to Glory. So those who bear the cross today, will one day share His glory with Him. Another faithful person is mentioned in 2

Sam. 19:24. Mephibosheth could not be happy with those who were singing and rejoicing with Absalom. He sat alone in his room and thought, "When will my lord the king come back? "This is what it means to wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus. From the day David went out of Jerusalem, Mephibosheth neither cut his toenails, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes. These are lawful things. , But he did not have any desire for lawful things, also, because he was looking for his king. This is the real way of looking for the Lord. Our heart longs for Him so much, that we let go lawful things also. Perhaps we do not read worldly books and magazines, but we sit and talk and waste time in unnecessary things. In that case, we will be left behind wh13n our King returns! When king David returned, Mephibosheth was so happy. David asked him to divide the land with Ziba, but Mephibosheth said, "...let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again ..." (v.30). He wanted nothing, because he was not after rewards. He was happy that his king had come back. We should wait for our King In the same way.

In Psa. 42:1, 2 the Psalmist says, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after the-, 0 God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before

God?" This is what it means to wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus. That is why the Lord said, "Watch and pray." In Psa. 63:1,2 we have the same cry; "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; to see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary." For a true believer this world is a place where he cannot get any satisfaction. Some people are satisfied in this world with their position, money and land. All they want is. How to make more money and build many buildings. At the same time they say they are thirsty for the Lord. Be not deceived. God cannot be mocked. Let us not be hypocrites. If your hearts are set upon the treasures of this world, and you are satisfied with worldly pleasures, worldly magazines, eating and drinking, and yet you say you are looking for the Lord, that is only hypocrisy. But a true believer says, "Lord, I thirst for Thee. Nothing in this world can satisfy me. Thou alone canst satisfy me." Some believers find satisfaction in God's service. But a true believer says, "Oh God, I thirst for Thee. You can take away everything from me; my house, my lands, my clothes, my treasure, my gift, my preaching, my singing. Oh God, I just want Thee. I just want to give self to Thee. I ask for nothing in this world. I am not longing for friends, I am not asking for any thing. Oh desire only one thing. I want more of Thee and myself. You please possess me fully". This is what it means to look for the coming of the Lord. He will appear the second time for those who look for Him. in Psa. 73:24,25, we read, "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee: We do not look for streets of gold and gates of pearls. Our desire is only for the Lord. That is how Mephibosheth looked for David and that is how we should look for the Lord Jesus.

One of the signs of the end days is, iniquity will abound and the love of many will wax cold. (Matt. 24:12). It is true, in the last days it will be so but we can truly say, "I do not know when my Lord will come, but I am ready for His coming. I am in this world, but my soul is thirsty for Him." May God help us to keep the fire of our love for Him always burning upon the altar. If you truly love Him, be willing to humble yourself. Be willing to have the last place in the assembly. Be willing to be a servant to everyone as our Lord Himself was. Desire nothing in the world, but just to be at the foot of the cross. Be willing to go and ask forgiveness of those whom you have offended. If you are not in talking terms with someone, set it right. Have a longing to help those who are weak. Let us love the Lord and His House. Let us say with the Psalmist, "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (Psa.84: 10).

A final word to those who do not know the Lord yet. There is only one reason why you do not love the Lord Jesus Christ; it is because you do not know Him. If you realise how much He loves you, if only you knew what He gave to make you His own, you will give your all to Him. Just look at the cross where He shed His precious blood and gave His life to redeem you. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet. 1: 18, 19). Repent of your sins, dear reader, and believe on the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus. Today receive Him as your personal Saviour and be ready for His second coming.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who works all things after the counsel of His own will and makes them work together for our good, as we continue in His calling, setting our love upon Him. Praise be to His wonderful Name! He has called us according to His purpose "according to his own purpose," as we read in 2. Tim. 1: 9. In that heavenly calling we have been foreknown and predestinated "to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom. 8:29). The Lord grant us all grace to know as well as to abide in His ways and works ordained before for us, for the fulfillment of His purpose, to the praise of the glory of His grace (Eph. 1: 11; Rom. 8:28,29; Eph. 1: 4-6).

The above is what God is doing with us in Christ. Inclusively He is seeking to conform us to " the image of His Son, in terms of His love. Let us for a moment consider as to what our idea is of the

phrase, " the image of God's Son". He is the Son of His love, and the very word son is a love-term, beyond which there is nothing higher and fuller. In the revelation of God, Son, Sonship, is the embodiment and exhaustion of love. We should be conformed to the image of His Son, in terms of love. It sounds something new to us, but let us ask the Lord to write the force of it in our hearts and not just take it as a Biblical teaching alone.

The Lord will have to help us as we follow after this, for there will have to be some very real; dealings with Him. We are going to be challenged and found out on this. It is well that we are very much occupied with the word grace. "Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be", so the hymn goes. We love that word GRACE. Do we realise that it is the word for LOVE, and that it speaks of the initiative of God in this whole matter? In grace He chose us. The initiative of God was in love.

Thus what is true of our position in the Beloved, is put upon us as our obligation, and when are bidden to love one another, we are bidden to show to others the grace that God has shown to us. 1 John. 4:19 reads, " We love him, because he first loved us." Another version of it, which would make sense with the context would be, "We love because He first loved us". That is the whole of John's argument in that letter, "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1 John 4:11; 3:16). "God so loved" -He gave all that He possessed in heaven. We therefore love one another, because He loved us first.

That is a tremendous test of the reality of our being In Christ, and a tremendous challenge, and we need something with which to meet and answer that challenge. Paul says that provision is all in the Beloved. We must get close to this expression, "in the beloved". It is not as though the Beloved Christ is a kind of sphere and that God has put everything inside there. It is more than that. It is Christ Himself as Paul says, "It is no longer I, but Christ liveth in me". Christ is the supplier. Paul dwells on that again right through to the end, to the ultimate realisation "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1 :27). Much is summed up in the word glory. "... God... hath called us unto his eternal glory..." (1 Pet. 5:10). But what is glory? There is no glory except the glory of perfected love. Perfected love is the glory of God. The glory of God is His love.

Let there be a deep impression upon the hearts of all-writer and reader-of one thing: "... his great love wherewith he loved us" (Eph. 2:4). The whole matter of our Christian life and testimony is gathered into that. That love in us, is the satisfying answer to the heart of God (John 17:26). It is not how much truth and doctrine we possess, how much teaching we have and give. It is not a matter of the mysteries of the Gospel. It all resolves itself into this -the love of God shown to us, and then shown by us. That IS all. May the Lord help us.

The Lord blessed the ministry of the Youth Reunion held on the 18th of September at Hebron, in which more than two thousand participated. Bro. Theodore ministered the Word based on the theme " Let us rise and build", with others in the youth ministry also contributing to the programme. Quite a few professed faith in the Lord while others had the opportunity to recommit their lives to Him. Pray for the follow up work amongst the youth in the twin cities.

The Lord granted us a profitable time in the dedication service of the new worship hall, Jehovah-Jireh, constructed at Erode. A few hundreds came from nearby towns and districts, including full time servants in the ministry of the Lord in Tamilnadu. We had a brief ministry of the Word based on the subject of the ministry of Levites in the Tabernacle, particularly as applied to the family of Kohathites (Numbers 4). They were to carry the most holy things of the sanctuary on their shoulders, unlike Gershonites and Merarites who had wagons given to them (vs. 7-9). Since the word Levi means joined, they had to be single-hearted in their service, putting the Lord's interests first and be wholly given to the Lord. They carried the holy things of the sanctuary covered with the badgers' skin, and put on the staves (vs. 10-12,14). The burdens they carried had no attraction to the eye of man, as badger's skin was such for appearance. So the service they rendered had no present honour or attraction. They had no personal choice of their own as to what they would like to carry. It was appointed by Aaron the priest (v.19). In the march of Israel according to divine order they came fourth (Num. 10: 13-21) and hence they had no prominent position- they were behind the Gershonites and Merarites, their brethren. The work of God for the true furtherance of the Lord's Testimony, is languishing for lack of true Kohathites in our assemblies. The Lord grant us all the spirit of Timothy, seeking not our own but the things of Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:20,21). The Lord deliver our hearts from the temptation to seek after

personal honour, prominence, position, and human choices and preferences. May we be such truly joined to the Lord by one Spirit. (1 Cor.6: 19).

Pray for the ministry fulfilled at thf1 servants gathering held at Tenali on 22nd September, when God's servants Bros. John Subba Reddy, Melanchton, Victor David, Joseph Kurien, Purna Chandra Rao and many others participated. Let us pray that the matters prayed for, for the various needs of the churches be answered. The Lord's wisdom and sufficiency be granted to them and others with them to resolve matters for the establishing and upbuilding of His saints.

The Lord blessed the ministry of Bro. Eddy Williams in Ahmedabad during the special meetings held there from 4th to 7th September. Believers from other assemblies in Gujarat also participated. Pray for Bro. John Wickliffe, father of Bro. Samuel Wickliffe, God's servant at Korba, Chhattisgarh who underwent bypass surgery in Care Hospital, Hyderabad on the 21st September. Praying that we all may be carried in the current of God's great love wherewith He loved us, to love the brethren and serve Him acceptably in His House,

2Cor.5:14,15,17
1 Cor.13 : 4,8,13
Jer.31:3,4,13

I remain,
Yours in his grace,
K.PHilip

SERVE IN NEWNESS OF SPIRIT-3
BAKHT SINGH

Whenever the Lord Jesus Christ spoke, power came out of Him. Even though the Pharisees knew it, they were blind. They were not willing to accept Him. Light rejected becomes darkness. They only opposed Him and were jealous of Him. It was the same with Korah and the people who followed him. Rather than accepting the message of Moses as God's message, they regarded it as man's message. When they heard him speak, they said, "We also can speak like him:' Even though they could repeat the same words, there was a difference. Moses had the authority of God, which they did not have.

When I worked as a cook in a hotel in Canada, I used to prepare different kinds of food. The head cook there who was drawing As. 1,000/- a month, was very clever. Whenever I took leave for a day or two he would ask me to give him the recipe, so that he could serve the same food. Very gladly I used to give him all the instructions. He used to cook accordingly and serve the food using my name also. But the people said, "It looks nice and alright, but the taste is different. that is quite true. Even at home, you can make out whether it is your mother's preparation or your wife's, because the taste will be different.

When Moses spoke, he did not use his own words. He spoke what God told him to speak. There was power and authority in every word. But these men, because they were princes, thought surely they too could speak like Moses. God showed them through the budding rod that they were only like dry rods, whereas Moses and Aaron had power in them. God proved that He had chosen them for His service. Many people want to become great preachers in the world by getting much knowledge. They learn some passages by heart. They pass many examinations and learn many phrases but they have no peace in their hearts. There is no joy and no power in them. One can see only dryness; though they may teach and preach very cleverly in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Matt. 7:22,23, we have a solemn warning. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (To be contd.)

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