

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

February 3, 2019

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

How Long Will the Lord Delay?

Chase Green

Sometimes we sing songs about the glorious return of our Lord. “And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul” (“It is Well with My Soul” by Horatio Spafford). “O how sweet ’twill be to meet the Lord, When He comes in glory, by and by; What a song of praise will be outpoured, When He comes in glory, by and by” (“When He Comes in Glory By and By” by Arthur Westbrook). “What a day that will be, When my Jesus I shall see, When I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His grace; When He takes me by the hand, And leads me to the Promise Land, What a day, glorious day that will be” (“What a Day that Will Be” by Jim Hill).

Yes, it will be the most glorious of days, but many Christians grow weary waiting on the return of our Lord. Others mock the very idea, pointing to the almost 2000 years since the death of our Lord. Peter discusses this subject in 2 Peter chapter 3. We need to familiarize ourselves with this passage, so that when scorners do mock the second coming of our Lord, we can be ready to defend the Truth.

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days **scoffers**, walking after their own lusts, And saying, **Where is the promise of his coming?** for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved** unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and (cntd. on page 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 1/27/18

Contribution – \$2480

Attendance:

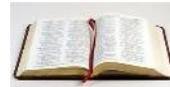
Sunday Bible Classes – 34

Sunday Worship* – 52

Wednesday Night – 28

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: They were partaking of the Lord's Supper unworthily, not discerning the Lord's body (1 Cor. 11:29-30).

Q: Paul said there should be no _____ in the body?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM - Choose Life!

- 1) Is there value in the life of a newborn?
- 2) Is there value in the life of the unborn?
- 3) What Bible verse(s) can be cited to prove this?

PM - Par for the Course

- 1) As Christians, are we striving for “par,” or better than par (the status quo)?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconofcfc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marion Relana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2326 JONESBORO ROAD
MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057
WEST MONROE, LA 71294

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYER

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers — Joy Skipper — John & Ruth Coston — Stetson Ortega — Lindy Brown — Kaitlyn Wilson — Kathy Lawrence — The family of Esther de Lacerda, who passed away last Monday

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Mark your calendars! February 16th at 5pm we will be having our Valentine's Banquet in the annex. Colt Moore will be the speaker this year.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Every 4th Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers (If you would like to help with or host a get-together, please let Chase know)

(Continued from page 1)

the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, **Looking for** and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:1-13, emphasis mine). Peter goes on to explain that Christians must remain diligent to continue in steadfast faith.

Peter compares the scoffers of today with the scoffers of the time of Noah. Just as these men did not believe that the world would be destroyed, so are there many today with the same belief. By their willful ignorance they refused to acknowledge the possibility that a righteous God would destroy a wicked mankind. But those wicked men were sorely mistaken, and they paid the price.

Today, many are sorely mistaken about the return of Christ. They live their lives in such a way that shows very little concern about the condition of their soul when Jesus does finally return. They live life "on the edge," gambling that there will always be tomorrow when they can finally make their lives right and return to the Lord. For many of these, tomorrow never comes.

God is longsuffering towards mankind. I believe that it is His longsuffering nature, combined with the preserving power of faithful Christians (the salt of the earth - Mat. 5:13), that is contributing to the Lord's delay. It is not that God is "slack" (Greek meaning "tardy," or "delayed") as if He is behind schedule, but that He is patiently waiting for souls to repent — Look again at 2 Pet. 3:9. Just as there was a period of patient waiting in the first destruction of the world (see 1 Pet. 3:20), we are in a period of patient delay today. Why? Because of the longsuffering of God.

No man knows the day or the hour when Jesus is going to return (Mark 13:32). But we do know that He WILL return one day. The Lord has promised us this, and we better be ready when He does!

How long will the Lord delay? Again, no man knows. But we do know that every day, every hour, every minute, every second that He does delay is another second, minute, hour, and day that wicked man has the opportunity to repent. We had better not test the longsuffering nature of God, for one day, His patience will run out!

With love, Chase

Some Rules for Bible Study
Charles Box

- Study the Bible in order to be able to rightly divide it. (II Timothy 2:15)
- Study the Bible understanding that it contains the mind and will of God. (II Peter 1:21)
- Study the Bible reverently and humbly. (I Thessalonians 2:13)
- Study the Bible accepting all that it says. Believing only a part of the Bible is not pleasing to God. (John 12:48)
- Study the Bible trying to learn what it has to say. Have your heart and mind open to what God has to say. (Revelation 2:11)
- Study the Bible with an honest desire to learn more of God's will for your life. (John 5:39-40)
- Study the Bible with a willingness to obey what God has commanded. (Luke 6:46)
- Study the Bible with common sense. Common sense tells us that the Lord meant water when He said water in John 3:5.
- Study the Bible daily. Read it often. (Acts 17:11)
- Study the Bible in a systematic way learning all that God has to say. (Psalms 119:10-16)
- Study the Bible by asking, "Who is speaking?" Is it a fool or an inspired man? (Psalms 14:1)
- Study the Bible asking to whom a statement is made. Is this something God said to an alien sinner or to Christians? Example: John 16:13 was a promise to the apostles only.
- Study the Bible by giving it priority over television, radio, etc. (Matthew 6:33)
- Study the Bible with a definite purpose to know Christ, become like Him and obey His will. (Matthew 7:21)

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."
Matt. 19:9

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