

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

November 3, 2019

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

Jesus is Coming Soon?

Dave Miller, Ph.D.

One hymn which has attained considerable popularity over the years is R.E. Winsett’s “Jesus Is Coming Soon.” Since the New Testament teaches that we are to “sing with the understanding” (1 Corinthians 14:15) and to refrain from speaking or singing falsehoods (Ephesians 4:25; 5:19), it behooves us to be conscious of the meanings and biblical significance of the lyrics which pass from our lips.

The New Testament teaches that Jesus could come at virtually any time (Matthew 24:42-44). It teaches that time is nothing with God, to the extent that even a delay of hundreds of years amounts to nothing (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8). In this sense, Jesus may be thought of as “coming soon.” But the Bible also teaches that no one knows when Jesus will actually come again (Matthew 24:36). To give the impression that one is certain that Jesus will return “soon,” i.e., in the next few months or years, is to make a claim that cannot be sustained by Scripture. It is perfectly within the purview of biblical thought for Jesus to delay his coming for another thousand years or even much longer.

The real problem with the song is seen in its second verse. If there was any doubt about the song’s millennial leanings, the lyrics of verse two clearly betray the author’s eschatological misconceptions. The phrases “love of so many cold,” “evils abound,” and “when these signs come to pass” are undeniable allusions to Matthew 24:12 and Luke 21:28,31. While the lyricist applies these conditions to the end of time and Christ’s second coming, Jesus applied them to the destruction of Jerusalem which occurred in A.D. 70. When Christ comes again, there will be no signs to herald the fact (Miller, 2003). It will come completely by surprise with no signals to warn people even of the approximate time (Matthew 24:36-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; 2 Peter 3:10).

(Continued on page 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 10/27/19

Contribution – \$3377

Attendance:

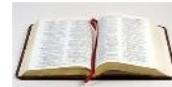
Sunday Bible Classes – 31

Sunday Worship* – 60

Wednesday Night – 30

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4).

Q: Who is the one mediator between God and men?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM — The Fruit of the Spirit

1. Which fruits of the Spirit are in your life?
2. Which fruits are absent?
3. How can the absent ones be added?

PM — The Parable of the Rich Fool

1. What are the dangers of materialism?
2. What will happen to our material possessions after we are gone?

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

Beaconcofc.com

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

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

Missions Supported

Ronnie Goolam - India
Marlon Retana - 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 PRAYERS

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Jerry Tippen, Harold Myers, Joy Skipper, Ruth Coston, Kaitlyn Wilson, Kathy Lawrence, Mike Jones, Kenneth Hendrix, Tim Green, Mildred Allhands, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Stetson Ortega, Bettie Young, Wendy Traweek, Dewey Young (Has been placed under hospice care and is not doing well), Kevin Green (Is in stage 3 congestive heart failure; hoping to be able to treat this with medication), Marcia Green (Was taken to GRMC Wednesday night with complications from COPD, high blood pressure, and rapid heart rate), The family of Mildred Allhands, who passed away peacefully on Thursday

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Fall Festival: At Tim and Tricia's house Saturday, Nov. 16th — More details soon!
- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly events.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted.



(Continued from page 1)

It is not easy to admit that a song that is so emotionally and aesthetically satisfying possesses inherent flaws that render it spiritually unacceptable. But if we truly love and respect God and His Word, we will adjust our practice, loyalties, and sentimentalities to fit God's will—*not vice versa*. After all, when Jesus returns, we want Him to find us humbly submitting to His will.

REFERENCE

Miller, Dave (2003), "There Will Be No Signs!" Apologetics Press, <http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=11&article=937&topic=83>.

Note: The above article was taken from the Apologetics Press website. Here is a link to the article: <http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=11&article=1701&topic=83>.

Who is the Antichrist?

Chase Green

This is perhaps one of the most popular speculative questions in all of "Christendom?" And if someone is asking this question with this exact wording, it actually shows a misunderstanding of the subject. The reason for that is this — the Bible does NOT speak of one (singular) antichrist. Rather, it speaks of many. Furthermore, the term "antichrist" is more descriptive of an attitude, or mindset, of individuals rather than a specific Entity (or Entities).

This word "antichrist" appears four times in the Bible — 1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; and 2 John 1:7. The plural term "antichrists" appears once (1 John 2:18), which helps us understand what the concept of antichrist is. Let us examine each of these verses, and let us not put words in the apostle John's mouth, speculating that some arch evil Being will come to kickstart the end of the world. Premillennialism teaches that, but you won't find this taught in the Bible.

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time" (1 John 2:18). You might be thinking, "Wait a minute. I thought you just said that the antichrist would not signal the end of time? Isn't that what this verse says?" But look closer. John is not saying that one (singular) arch evil Antichrist (capital "a") would enter into the world, wreak havoc upon it, and then the end would come. John is saying that IT ALREADY WAS the last time in the first century when he was writing! They were aware of the concept of antichrist, and it appears that they too were thinking of a singular Antichrist, but John says that "there are MANY antichrists" (emphasis mine throughout). John says that because there are many antichrists, this assures us that we are living in the last time.

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son" (1 John 2:22). This gives us a very basic, easy-to-understand definition of the term "antichrist" — "he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ" and he "that denieth the Father and the Son." Essentially, ANYBODY who lives his life contrary to the will of Christ IS antichrist! Many people (e.g. atheists) deny Christ's deity by refusing to believe in Him, but countless more people deny Christ by living their lives in contrast to His will (see Titus 1:16).

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world" (1 John 4:3). Why are people still looking for "THE (singular) Antichrist," when the apostle John wrote long ago that the spirit of antichrist was already in the world?! The spirit of antichrist is an ATTITUDE of rejection of Christ. An example of this would be the many people in the first century who were rejecting the Deity of Christ (e.g. Gnostics, who could not understand how God could have come in the flesh). They were denying a very foundational principle of the Gospel, found in John 1:1 and following!

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (2 John 1:7). It may be tempting to take the latter part of this verse "A deceiver and AN antichrist" to point to a singular Antichrist, but look at the first part of the verse. "For MANY deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh." Each one of these had the spirit of antichrist! Simply put, ANY deceiver who walks about teaching and turning Christ's disciples away from the faith is antichrist, and there are many such false teachers who seek to do so (See 2 Tim. 4:3).

The concept of antichrist is something that must not be minimized. In fact, since John wrote so adamantly against those who held these false doctrines, we must do all we can to avoid going down the same path. But let us remember that the concept of antichrist has more to do with an erroneous religious attitude rather than trying to pinpoint a singular end of the world arch evil Being supposedly coming in the yet future to wreak havoc on God and His people.

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 8:12

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com