

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Thessalonians 4:13-18**.
- B. There are two extremes about the subject of the second advent of Christ. One is to speak very little about it, ignore it, and the other is to spend all one's time talking and preaching about it.
- C. The best position is in the middle. To trust in the coming of Christ as a fundamental fact of the gospel.

I. TERMS USED FOR IT.

- A. Scriptural terms:
 - 1. "Shall appear a second time." (Heb. 9:28).
 - 2. "The coming of our Lord." (2Th. 1:7).
 - 3. "The day of the Lord." (2Pet. 3:10).
 - 4. "The revelation of Jesus Christ." (1Pet. 1:13).
- B. Unscriptural terms:
 - 1. "The Return."
 - 2. "The Second Coming" (this depends on the translation used).
 - 3. "The Second Advent" (not anti-biblical, but not found either).
 - 4. "The Millennium."

II. BIBLE FACTS.

- A. The one event most often recorded.
 - 1. More than 300 times; once in every twenty verses in the NT.
 - 2. Recorded in type, symbol, parable, and prophecy.
 - 3. Probably contained in first promise.
- B. Baptism mentioned about 108 times.
- C. The Lord's Supper mentioned about twelve times.

III. THE TWO ADVENTS COMPARED.

- A. First advent:
 - 1. Born as a babe into the world.
 - 2. Quietly grew into maturity.
 - 3. Quietly entered His public work (ministry).
 - 4. Suffered, died, buried, arose.
 - 5. Clothed with humility.
 - 6. Seemingly suffered defeat.
- B. Second advent:
 - 1. With a shout (1Th. 4:16).
 - 2. In the clouds. (1Th. 4:16).
 - 3. In his glory. (Mt. 25:31).
 - 4. With His angels.
 - 5. Sitting on the throne of His glory (
 - 6. In triumph.

IV. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE TWO ADVENTS.

- A. We live between the two advents.
- B. We look back to one by faith.
- C. Look forward to the other with hope; the Lord's Supper (2Tim. 1:12).
- D. Between these two we are to walk worthily (Phil. 1:27; Rev. 3:4).

E. The second coming is the polar star of the church, {Eph. 5:27}.

V. IT'S PLACE INTHE PLAN OF SALVATION.

A. Connected with the resurrection (1Th. 4:16).

B. Connected with the Lord's Supper (1Cor. 11:26).

C. With the judgment (Mt. 25:31,32).

D. With the reward for the righteous and condemnation of the wicked (2Th. 1:6-9).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. No one need fear the second coming if he/she is ready for it.

B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.