

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

***“See, I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me,
to repay all according to their deeds” (Rev 22:12)***

Sadly the Second Coming of Christ is not much talked about even in the so-called spiritual circles of Christendom. Whether we trust Him or not, whether we expect His return or not, His coming is certain. No one will know when He would return. Only the Father in Heaven knows the time (Mt 24:36). But He will come “as a thief,” meaning, at the most unexpected time. When we go about with our business as usual, thinking that Christ will not come now, He may suddenly arrive! (Rev 22:20).

One wonders why Christ should return. The primary purpose is to take His people to the eternal Home! How sweet! He wants us to be where He is (Jn 14:3). Not only that, He wants to reward the deeds of those who have walked in obedience to Him, and to judge those who have rejected Him (Psa 96:13).

The signs of Second Coming are appearing one after the other. One important sign is that “the love of many will grow cold” (Mt 24:12). There also arises a question whether genuine faith on God and His Son would prevail. Jesus Himself asked, “When the Son of Man comes back, will He find faith in the world?” (Lk 18:8). There’s widespread departure from faith and the denial of it. False doctrines are flooded everywhere (2 Tim 3:13; Jude 18; 2 Pet 3:3,4).

However, on the positive side, we are witnessing an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit, in accordance to the prophecy of Joel, “In the last days, I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh” (Joel 2:28,29). The Church growth is faster now than anytime in history. 75000 men and women are added to the Church everyday. Even in the Communistic China there’s a daily addition of 30000 to the Church. Yes, “whoever” calls on the Name of the Lord is getting saved (Acts 2:21). On our part, we must keep growing in holiness as we await the Return of Christ (1 Jn 3:1-3), stay watchful in prayer (Lk 21:36), active in soulwinning and evangelism (Lk 19:13; Mt 24:14,46). Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), known as the Prince of Preachers, pointed out, “The fact that Jesus Christ is to come again is not a reason for stargazing, but for working in the power of the Holy Spirit!”

*Watch ye, pray ye, soldiers of the Lord;
Work ye, wait ye, trusting in His Word;
Keep His commandments, and His law obey,
And He will reward you in the last great day!* (Dr. G.L. Mitchell)

WHAT THEN ???

When the great plants of our cities have turned out their last finished work,
When our merchants have sold their last yard of silk,
And dismissed the last tired clerk;
When our banks have raked in their last dollar,
And paid the last dividend;
When the Judge of the Earth says:
“Close for the night,”
And ask for a balance — WHAT THEN? WHAT THEN?

When the choir has sung its last anthem,
And the preacher has made his last prayer;
When the people have heard their last sermon,
And the sound has died out on the air;
When the Bible lies closed on the altar,
And the pews are all empty of men,
And each one stands facing the record —
And the great Book is opened — WHAT THEN? WHAT THEN?

When the actors have played their last drama,
And the mimic has made his last fun,
When the film has flashed its last picture,
And the billboard displayed its last run;
When the crowds seeking pleasure have vanished,
And gone out in the darkness again —
When the trumpet of ages is sounded,
And we stand up before Him — WHAT THEN? WHAT THEN?

When the bugle’s call sinks into silence,
And the long-marching columns stand still,
When the captain repeats his last orders,
And they’ve captured the last fort and hill,
And the flag has been hauled from the masthead,
And the wounded afield checked in,
And a world that rejected its Saviour,
Is asked for a reason — WHAT THEN? WHAT THEN?

— *Selected*