

## Waiting in Hope Will Be Rewarded

### Introduction and Review

- Personal eschatology is the study of last things that affects true believers, false believers & unbelievers – only true believers persevere to the end.
- Personal eschatology involves death, intermediate state, resurrection (glorification), judgment & eternal state.
- General eschatology is the study of last things that will affect the entire universe & all of creation – a variety of interpretations & theories.
- Attempting to understand general eschatology creates tension & causes confusion: time of Christ's return, rapture of believers & millennium.
- The Scriptures appear to teach Christ will return: soon, after a long delay & uncertain time – **always be ready** (Lk. 12:40).
- Many signs of Christ's return: were fulfilled in first century, continue today & will continue in the future – **always be ready** (Mt. 24:44).

### I. How Christ Will Return

#### A. Sudden & Unexpectedly

*God has not revealed the time of Christ's return to anyone (Mt. 24:36).*

*Therefore believers in every generation must be ready for He will come at an unexpected time (Mt. 24:44; Lk. 12:40). He will come suddenly with mighty power (2Pe. 3:10).*

#### B. Visible & Bodily

*The return of Christ will be distinctively visible to all living humanity (Ac. 1:9-11; Rev. 1:7). The Lord will have a distinctive resurrection body of **transformed** flesh & bones (Lk. 24:36-39; Ac. 1:11; 1Th. 4:16).*

#### C. Personal & Permanently

*When Christ returns believers will have personal interaction with Him (1Jn. 3:2). When Christ returns believers will have personal & permanent fellowship with Him (Jn. 14:3).*

***Jesus will return suddenly, visibly, bodily & personally.***

### II. Why Christ Will Return

#### A. For His glory

*The return of Christ will be in/with divine glory (Mt. 16:27; Lk. 21:25-27; 2Th. 1:9-10). The glory of Christ is the divine glory of God described in other places of the Scriptures (Heb. 1:3a; Ex. 33:17-19). This glory demands awe & worship.*

#### B. For His saints

*All believers since the creation will receive resurrection bodies & will be with the Lord forever (1Co. 15:50-53; 1Th. 4:13-17; Jn. 14:3). Our permanent home is with the Lord (2Co. 5:8).*

***Jesus will return for His glory & for His saints.***