

49 NO FUTURE SECOND COMING

Introduction: Countless Christians today are waiting for the second coming of Christ, when everything will, presumably, be set right. The anticipation of a future second coming, which amounts to a third coming, (see papers 1 and 2) creates a sad blindness to the teachings of the Bible. Scripture teaches Jesus is already here with us. Why wait for Him who is already present? This cognitive dissonance* envelops believers in a dense fog of confusion, making fundamental New Testament teachings difficult to discern.

1. Jesus Christ in you—not coming some day.

- A. "Put yourselves to the test to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize regarding yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you--unless, indeed, you fail the test!" 2 Cor 13:5
- B. "If Christ is in you... the spirit is alive because of righteousness." Rom 8:10
- C. I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me. Gal 2:20
- D. Jesus said, "In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." John 14:20
- E. Jesus said, "I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." Jn 15:5

2. The Spirit in you.

- A. "Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God? You are not your own." 1 Cor. 6:19
- B. "But we received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God." 1 Cor 2:12
- C. "Hope doesn't disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Rom 5:5

3. God in you.

- A. "You are a temple of the living God. Even as God said, "I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they will be my people." 2 Cor. 6:16
- B. "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God." 1 John 4:15
- C. "One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all." Eph 4:6

4. Trinity in you.

- A. **Spirit, God, Christ:** "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if it is so that the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if any man doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, he is not his." Rom 8:9
- B. **Son, Father:** Jesus answered him, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our home with him." Jn 14:23
- C. **Son, Father:** "In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." John 14:20
- D. **Christ, Spirit:** "If Christ is in you... the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." Rom 8:9-11
- E. **Spirit, God:** "If the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead [God] dwells in you, he [God] who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you." Rom 8:11
- F. **God, Spirit:** "Don't you know that you are a temple of God, and that God's Spirit lives in you?" 1 Cor. 3:16

5. You in Christ. You in God.

- A. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. 2 Cor 5:17
- B. "We know him who is true, and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ." 1 Jn 5:20
- C. Jesus said, "In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." John 14:20
- D. Jesus said, "I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." Jn 15:5
- E. "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God. We know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him." 1 John 4:15
- F. "He is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live, and move, and have our being.'" Acts 17:27-28

6. We worship an invisible God.

- A. "Since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made." Rom 1:20
- B. "He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." Col 1:15

C. "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." 1 Tim 1:17

7. Believers are in heaven while on earth.

A. "Neither will they say, 'Look, here!' or, 'Look, there!' for...the Kingdom of God is within you." Lk 17:21

B. "But you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable multitudes of angels, to the general assembly and assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, to God the Judge of all." Heb 12:22-23

C. "...made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Eph 2:5-6

D. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." Eph. 1:3

8. Must transcend purely material orientation.

A. "Now the natural man doesn't receive the things of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to him, and he can't know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual, discerns all things, and he himself is judged by no one." 1 Cor 2:14-15

B. "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach; and it will be given to him." James 1:5

C. Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." Jn 3:3

9. Gratitude, admiration, praise puts us in the requisite mind frame for communion with our Creator.

A. "Knowing God, they didn't glorify him as God, neither gave thanks but became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened." Romans 1:21

B. "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think [contemplate, meditate] about such things." Phil 4:8

C. "Worthy is the Lamb who has been killed to receive the power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing!" I heard every created thing which is in heaven, on the earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb be the blessing, the honor, the glory, and the dominion, forever and ever! Amen! The four living creatures said, "Amen!" The elders fell down and worshipped." Rev. 5:12-14

Summary: When we cease waiting for that which we already possess, we find ourselves participating in the Divine Life. We possess the peace and grace we have longed for, are independent of controlling human constraints and are not immersed in the cares of this world. We are fully dependent on our Creator and His power. Rooted in the Spiritual world, we are courageous in the face of evil. Are there set-backs? Do we forget? Do we need to be renewed and forgiven? Of course. But we know the Truth of Presence and boldly take our place in the world—whatever our heavenly Father has for us to do.

NOTES:

***Cognitive dissonance:** When one holds a strong core belief (future second coming of Christ), and is presented with evidence that works against that belief (first century fulfillment, Christ in you), the new evidence cannot be accepted because the priority is protecting the core belief. The person will rationalize, ignore, and perhaps deny anything that doesn't fit with the core belief.

"Watch and wait": It was first century believers, witnessing the end of the Old Covenant, who were urged to watch and wait.

Blessed hope: In Titus 2:13, Paul and his friends were looking forward to an event in their lifetime—not 2,000 years later.

See paper/video #1 and #2 are "primers" for the preterist view.

See video/paper #7 "Already But Not Yet" to understand the 40 years of the overlapping old and new covenants and the pre-AD 70 dating for the New Testament books.

See video/paper #32 for the scriptural basis of Christian meditation.

Recommendation: Robert Cruickshank, "Why is Preterism Important?" YouTube video. Delivered July 31, 2022