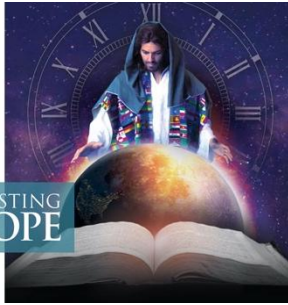


BIBLE PROPHECY
AND THE
SECOND COMING
OF CHRIST

FORECASTING
HOPE



1. Bible Prophecy and the Second Coming of Christ.

I'd like to begin by asking you a question. How many of you like to travel? Can I see your hands? Wow, there's quite a few of you. I like to travel as well, but what I have discovered is there are usually two types of travelers. The first type simply wants to get to their destination and do something restful and relaxing.



2. Sunbathing on the beach appeals to them, or



3. taking a quiet nap on a comfortable hammock in the middle of the afternoon.

But on the other hand, there are those that want to get to their destination and do something exciting.



4. Rock climbing on the edge of the cliff would appeal to them,



5. or maybe sky diving out of an airplane 10,000 feet in the air.



6. Some may even enjoy bungee jumping off a bridge towering over a deep canyon. Well, if you're more of the adventurous type, I have got a journey for you. Did you know that you can take a journey into space? You don't believe me?



7. Let me introduce you to a company called Virgin Galactic. It is the world's first space line. Now notice, I didn't say airline, I said space line. Their mission is to give private individuals like you and me the experience of taking a journey into space—the experience of being able to see what the professional astronauts see.



8. In fact, they are building a special spacecraft to make this a reality. From their spaceport in the New Mexico desert, you will board this modern-day spacecraft and be launched into the atmosphere at 2500 mph. That's 3 times faster than the speed of sound. Eventually you will pass the Karman line, which is considered to be the boundary between Earth and space.



9. At that point, you will experience zero gravity for the very first time. You will know what's it's like to be weightless. You can float from one end of the room to the other. You can throw a grape up and watch it be suspended in mid-air. You can do somersaults in the air without getting hurt. It will be the experience of a lifetime. Then they will fly you back to the spaceport in the New Mexico desert and you can tell all your jealous friends and family about the awesome journey you just had.



10. What will this fantastic journey cost you? A measly \$600,000. All you have to do is lay down a \$150,000 deposit and when a seat becomes available, you can pay the rest of the money. I know it sounds incredible but it's true. Just Google the Virgin Galactic website. So how many of you are ready to make a reservation and take a journey into space? Let me see your hands. Some of you are ready to go. But most you did not raise your hand.



11. Well, if you don't like that journey, I've got another one for you. Bible prophecy says that one day soon Jesus Christ is going to burst through this earth's atmosphere. He is going to come back and rescue His people and together they will take a journey to the Kingdom of Heaven. And the wonderful thing is, that journey doesn't cost \$250,000. You don't even have to lay down a deposit, because if you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, the journey is already paid for!



12. Tonight, we're going to take a look at the greatest prophecy in the book of Revelation, the return of Jesus Christ. You might say, "Wait a minute! I thought the most important prophecy was the one about anti-christ." It's important to know about the anti-christ and we will study that later in the seminar.



13. But the truth is, the greatest prophecy is the one about the second coming of Jesus. Because if Jesus Christ is not coming back to this earth to save us, none of the other prophecies really matter. It is the foundation of the Christian faith. Without it we are destined to live in a sinful, messed up world forever. It would mean we are born without purpose. Hopefully we live 70-80 years, but if we die as a child from a tragic accident, then too bad, lights out, no more hope, no more future. It's over! Good bye!



14. Well, that doesn't sound very appealing to me. In fact, it's sounds rather morbid. But yet that's what many people believe in this world. The prophecy of the second coming gives us hope. It's gives us a future to look forward to. That's why the Bible calls it the blessed hope.



1. Warnings that Jesus gave about His coming.
2. How the Bible describes the return of Jesus.
3. How can we be ready for His coming?

15. We're going to cover three things this evening. Number one, we're going to look at some warnings that Jesus gave about His coming. Number two, we're going to look at how the Bible describes the return of Jesus. And then number three, and most important, how can we be ready for His coming? How can we have peace and the assurance of salvation?

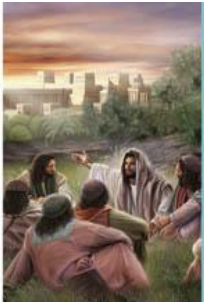


16. Let's go ahead and start with the warnings that Jesus gives. I want you to take your Bibles and turn to Matthew 24:3. Now, you've got to get used to bringing your Bibles every single night because we are definitely going to be using them. Let's turn to Matthew 24:3.

**WARNINGS OF JESUS
ABOUT THE SECOND COMING**

FIRST WARNING
MATTHEW 24:3, 4

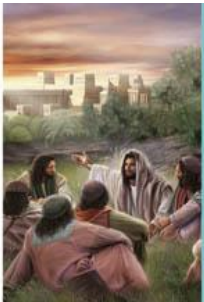
"Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be



17. The Bible says, "Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be

FIRST WARNING
MATTHEW 24:3, 4

the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one **deceives you.**'"



18. *the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one... ' does what? ...' "deceives you.'*"

FIRST WARNING
MATTHEW 24:3, 4

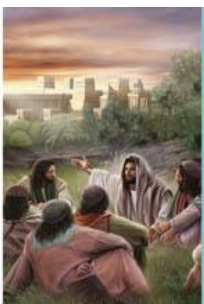
the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one **deceives you.**'"



19. The disciples asked Jesus what signs they should look for when Jesus would return. Before Jesus launches into anything specific, the very first thing He says is that He's concerned about people being deceived. Did you catch that? Now you may wonder, why is Jesus so concerned about people being deceived concerning His second coming?

FIRST WARNING
MATTHEW 24:3, 4

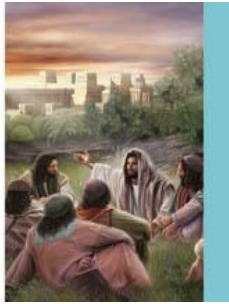
the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one **deceives you.**'"



20. I want us to think about something. Think back to the first coming of Jesus Christ, when He came as a baby born in a manger in Bethlehem. Were people deceived when Jesus came the first time? Absolutely. They were confused because the religious establishment wasn't looking for a savior who would be meek and lowly or who would open blind eyes or unstop deaf ears.

FIRST WARNING
MATTHEW 24:3, 4

the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you."



- 21.** They were looking for someone who would be a mighty warrior, someone who would free Israel from Roman captivity, someone who would make them the greatest capital in the world. That's the messiah they wanted. And so, when Jesus actually came—because of deception and confusion—the religious establishment rejected Him. So, Jesus knew that if the devil deceived people at His first coming, He would double his efforts to deceive people at His second coming. The question, then, is, in what ways can we be deceived? Well, there are two ways.
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- 22.** Number one, we can be deceived by being distracted in this world. You say, "What do you mean, Pastor?" Well, I can become so involved in my life in this world that I neglect my spiritual life. I can become so involved in building my business, so engrossed in my hobbies, so infatuated with the entertainment world that I begin to pay less attention to my relationship with Christ.
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- 23.** There's nothing wrong with those practices in and of themselves. It's good to work hard at our business. It's fine to have some hobbies. And there are some things in the entertainment world that might be wholesome and good. But when it gets to a point where I am so obsessed with those things that I'm not going to church, that I'm not spending time in the Bible, that I'm not spending time praying and connecting with Jesus Christ, that ought to be a red flag that something is wrong. Does that make sense?
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- 24.** When it gets to a point where I can name all the players on my favorite football team, but I can't even find the book of Joseph in the Bible, something is wrong. Some of you will get that about 10 minutes from now, but that makes a point! Now, to illustrate this, I'm going to share a little story to show how we can be distracted from spiritual life. I don't get to watch much TV, but one of the things that I do like to watch, when I can, is a game show by the name of Jeopardy!.



25. How many of you have ever seen Jeopardy!? Can I see your hands? If you're not familiar with it, Jeopardy! is a popular American quiz that's been airing since 1964. I am always amazed at the contestants on that game show. They seem to be some of the most super-intelligent people you would ever meet. They seem to know everything about anything—no matter what subject they put on the board.



26. It could be British literature, it could be biology, it could be medical science, or it could be opera. And before the host has even finished reading the question or the clue, they already know the answer. But do you know what I've noticed? Every once in a while, they will put the Bible up there as one of the categories. And it is shocking that some of these individuals who know absolutely everything else cannot answer some of the simplest questions of the Bible. Why? Because we are distracted by the other things in this world.



27. You see, to separate me from Jesus, the devil doesn't have to get me to commit some great sin. All he has to do is make me so utterly busy that I don't have time to spend with Jesus, and the relationship deteriorates. All he has to do is get me to accumulate worldly knowledge instead of spiritual knowledge. And when that happens my spiritual life begins to plummet.



28. One person suggested taking this test. He said, "Take your Bible and place it beside your television remote control right there on the coffee table. Then see which one you reach for the most." Whichever one you reach for the most, that's an indication of where your heart is. That would be a hard test, wouldn't it? But it makes a point.



- 29.** The other way we can be deceived is through false teaching. There's a lot of deception in the world concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ. For example, can I answer the questions: How will Jesus come? Is He going to sneak into this world? Are we going to turn CNN on one day and find out that Jesus is over in India and He's making His way here? The Bible has warned us, there will be false Christs and false prophets. So, it's important to understand what the Bible says about His return.



- 30.** Let's go to the second warning Jesus gave. We're already in Matthew chapter 24. So, let's go to verses 23-27.



SECOND WARNING
MATTHEW 24:23-27

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise

- 31.** The Bible says, "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise



SECOND WARNING
MATTHEW 24:23-27

and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.

- 32.** *and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.*



SECOND WARNING
MATTHEW 24:23-27

Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it.

- 33.** *Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it.*



SECOND WARNING
MATTHEW 24:23-27

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

- 34.** *For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."*

There are a number of important things here. First of all, Jesus warns us that there will be false christs and false prophets. He lets us know that there will be some impersonation going on. The devil may try to impersonate the coming of Jesus Christ.



SECOND WARNING
MATTHEW 24:23-27

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

- 35.** But what's shocking is, the Bible says these false christs and false prophets can do signs and wonders. "How can that be?" you ask. Can you imagine how deceptive that would be for people? You know that the majority of people today would say, "Oh well, if they can do miracles, they must be from God." But here's a principle that not many people recognize. Do you know the devil can do signs and wonders. He's not more powerful than God, but to give an example that shows what he's capable of, let me take you back to a story in the Old Testament.



MOSES

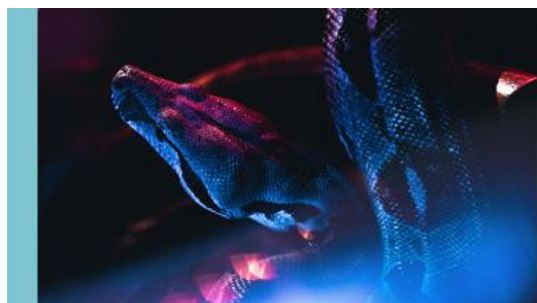
- 36.** God called Moses to go stand before Pharaoh and tell him to let the people of Israel go. Some of you may remember that story. It's in the book of Exodus chapters 3-7. When God called Moses to do that, did Moses want to go, yes or no? He did not. He said, "Lord, Pharaoh is one of the most powerful men in the world. He's not going to listen to me. He is going to ask, 'Who is this God that sent you?' Remember what God told him to do? He told Moses to throw down the staff in front of him and the staff will turn to a snake.



37. Lo and behold, Moses stands before him—and Pharaoh’s not listening. Moses throws down the staff. It turns into a serpent. Now I admit, that would impress me.



38. But do you know what happened next? Pharaoh called his magicians, his sorcerers, his wizards, and they did the exact same thing! Now, is that God working through the wizards and sorcerers? No, that’s the devil also doing signs and wonders, so as to deceive!



39. But what happens next is pretty cool because the Bible says that Moses’ serpent ate up their serpents. Can somebody say, Amen? That shows that God is ultimately more powerful than the devil.

The book of Revelation warns us that there will be an unseen battle going on in the world in the last days.

REVELATION 16:13-14

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast,



40. Notice what it says in Revelation 16:13-14: “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast,

REVELATION 16:13-14

and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the



- 41.** and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the
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REVELATION 16:13-14

kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”



- 42.** *kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”*

Revelation tells us the spirits of demons will working signs and wonders in the world in the last days in order to deceive people. The devil knows mankind is awed by signs and wonders. He knows man is mesmerized by the supernatural. In this way many will be deceived and led astray.

REVELATION 16:13-14

kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”



- 43.** In these last days, we need to understand that just because someone comes along and might be able to perform what seem to be supernatural signs and wonders, that is no guarantee they are sent from God. We are not to put our faith in miracles alone. Just because they're on TV, just because they can fill a stadium, just because their church does miraculous things, just because they have charisma, is no guarantee they are from God or teaching truth.
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REVELATION 16:13-14

kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”



- 44.** We must judge whether that person is leading us towards the word of God and towards Jesus. As long as we know what the Bible teaches, we don't have to worry about being deceived.

WARNINGS THAT JESUS
GIVES US ABOUT HIS COMING

1. Don't Be Distracted by This World.
2. Don't Be Deceived by False Teachings.
3. Don't Follow Signs and Wonders Alone.

45. Those are the warnings that Jesus gives us about His coming:

1. Don't be distracted by this world.
2. Don't be deceived by false teachings.
3. Don't follow signs and wonders alone.

WARNINGS THAT JESUS
GIVES US ABOUT HIS COMING

1. Don't Be Distracted by This World.
2. Don't Be Deceived by False Teachings.
3. Don't Follow Signs and Wonders Alone.

46. Here's what we're going to do next. The Bible gives three crystal clear facts in describing what the second coming will be like. Those three facts are so simple and easy to understand that we don't have to worry about being deceived by any false christ, false prophet, or false teaching. All we have to do is let God's Word speak for itself. Let's start going through these three Biblical facts.

IT IS VISIBLE

FACT 1



47. **Fact number one. The Bible also tells us this is going to be a visible event.** Let's go to Revelation chapter 1 and verse 7. Now, as you look this up, you're going to discover something. Chapter 1 is the introduction to the book of Revelation. Before John goes into any of the apocalyptic prophecies in this book, I want you to notice one of the first things that he says. We're in Revelation chapter 1 verse 7.

48. The Bible says, *"Behold, He is coming with clouds. And every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen."*

Chapter one is the introduction to the book of Revelation. The very first prophecy John talks about is the second coming of Christ. Before John describes any of the other prophecies, the first thing he wants us to know is that Jesus is coming soon.

REVELATION 1:7

"Behold, He is coming with clouds. And every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen."





REVELATION 1:7

"Behold, He is coming with clouds. And every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen."

- 49.** Before John mentions seven churches and seven seals, he wants us to know Jesus is coming soon. Before he says anything about anti-christ and the mark of the beast, he wants us to know Jesus is coming soon! It is the most important prophecy in the book of Revelation. It should cause me to ask the question: do I have the assurance of salvation in my heart?



- 50.** In this verse there is something very special. It says every eye will see Him. In Lincoln, Nebraska there is a ministry called Christian Record Services for the Blind. They provide specialized services for people who are blind and visually impaired. They distribute all types of Christian materials in Braille, large print, and on audio disc to thousands of blind people throughout the world. In their previous office building, they used to have a large mural on the wall depicting the return of Jesus Christ.



- 51.** On the mural is this very verse that every eye shall see Him. Well, what the artist has done is he has painted blind people looking up into the face of Jesus. People with seeing eye dogs by their side are looking up to Jesus! People with white canes are looking up to Jesus! Men and women wearing dark glasses are throwing them to the side because now for the first time they can see the face of Jesus! And the first thing they see is Jesus coming in the clouds of glory. Can you say, Amen?



- 52.** That will be a glorious day, not just for people who are blind, but for each one of us. John specifically writes, "every eye will see Him." John is telling us that when Jesus comes, we are going to notice it. Every living eye on the face of the earth is going to see when this event happens. We're not going to hear a CNN or CBS news report saying, "Jesus is over on this side of the world and He's making His way over to ours."



53. *(Tell a story of a time when you came home from a trip and your kids or your spouse or someone special was happy to see you. Or a story when you were you happy to see someone else. You can also choose to tell this story).* I want to tell you a story about David. Now David was a pastor who worked for this ministry called Christian Record Services for the Blind. He would travel a lot speaking at many churches and pastors' retreats across the country. Sometimes he'd be gone for a few days at a time. But whenever he would come home, he would call his wife, Marquita, when he was close to the house and tell her to tell their two little girls that Daddy's coming home.



54. So the girls would run to the living room, climb on the top of the couch, and look out the window waiting to see their Daddy pull into the driveway. When his two year old daughter would see him in the driveway and hear the key jiggling in the door lock, she would make her way to the gate by the stairs, put her hands on top of it and strain to see who was coming through the door. When she would see his face, what followed would just melt his heart. She'd get so excited and she would cry out, "Daddy is home, Daddy is home!"



55. One day Jesus is going to intersect time with eternity. He's been gone for years—even millennia. And like little children, we can't wait to see the face of Jesus. Prophecy says He is near, even at the door. And when we see Him bursting through the clouds—when we realize we're not going to live in a messed-up world anymore—when we realize that the plan of salvation is in the stage of its final fulfillment—then we're going to look up into His face and cry out, "Jesus has come, Jesus has come!" Just like an excited child who is waiting to see their Daddy!



56. But the truth is, not everyone is going to be happy when Jesus comes. I would like very much to be able to skip this next passage. But God tells me that I need to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God. I can't just pick and choose things that might make me popular or that might make people like me. There are times when God loves us enough to hit us between the eyes in order to get our attention. And so, this next verse is probably one of the saddest verses in the entire Bible, but it makes a powerful point.

MATTHEW 24:30

"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will **mourn**, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."



57. Let's take a look at Matthew 24 and verse 30. This is Jesus speaking.

He says, "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn. . ." What will they do? Mourn. ". . . and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

MATTHEW 24:30

"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will **mourn**, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."



58. But notice the one phrase in this verse. It says, "the tribes of the earth will mourn." That means, there are going to be large groups of people who will be greatly disturbed when they see Jesus coming. Why? Because they realize now that they're not ready. They realize now that the Bible is true. They realize now that the stories about Jesus are true.

MATTHEW 24:30

"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will **mourn**, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."



59. They realize now that God was trying to save them, and they rejected Him. Probation is over, time is no more, and they are lost. And that realization causes them to mourn in ways that are indescribable.

The book of Revelation picks up on this passage and describes it in much more detail. Let's take a look at Revelation 6:14-17.



REVELATION 6:14

"Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth,

60. The Bible says, "*Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth,*



REVELATION 6:14

the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

- 61.** *the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,*



REVELATION 6:14

and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

- 62.** *and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!*



REVELATION 6:14

For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

- 63.** *For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?' "*

Notice how Revelation describes this. It says the sky comes apart like a scroll. Mountains and islands are moved out of their places. Then it goes on to picture groups of people who are running away from the face of Jesus—running to the mountains and the rocks. They cry, *"Fall on us and hide us from His face!"* Can you imagine how that's going to make Jesus feel?



REVELATION 6:14

For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

- 64.** To see people that He created, people that He loves, people that He prepared a place for in heaven, people that He tried so desperately to save, but now they're running away from His face because they don't want to see Him!
I truly believe that's going to bring tears to the eyes of Jesus because the Bible says He doesn't desire that anyone should perish. He wants all to come to repentance. But the truth is, we have a free will and each person has a choice to make, whether it's one way or the other.



65. What's sobering to think about is that some of those individuals who are running from the face of Jesus are probably those who call themselves professed Christians. You might think to yourself, "What? How can that be?" Well, think about it. God has not set any of us up to be the judge of each other, but I think we realize that just because a person calls themselves a disciple of Jesus doesn't necessarily mean that they are.



66. Just because I sit in a pew doesn't necessarily mean that I have given my whole heart to Jesus Christ. These may be people who went to church at times but never developed a saving, born-again relationship with Jesus. They never surrendered their hearts to Him. They just looked religious. They were going through the motions.



67. Maybe they went to church simply to please a spouse or a family member. Or maybe they went there because that's where their friends go. Or maybe church was a place to come up with some good business contacts. But they never had the time to know Jesus personally. They never had an experience with Him. The heart was never changed. And now the event that should bring them the greatest joy brings them the most bitter sorrow.



68. So, two groups are looking at the same event. One group is rejoicing to see Jesus' face. The other group is watching the same event and to them it's a day of wrath. You see, when Jesus comes, there are only two reactions. I'm either going to be rejoicing or I'm going to be mourning. And so, the big question is, what will be my reaction when Jesus comes? Will I be rejoicing or will I be mourning?



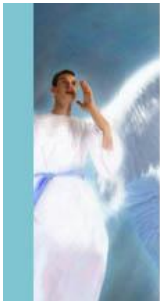
69. My prayer is that everyone in this room tonight will be rejoicing to see His face. My prayer is that everyone in this room have the assurance of salvation. If you are not sure of your salvation, if you feel you are not ready for Jesus to come, please come see me after the meeting tonight. We can talk together for a few minutes and I'd like to pray with you. I want you to be able to leave this place with the assurance of salvation. I want you to be able to leave this place with joy in your heart. Not fear.

IT WILL BE
AUDIBLE

FACT 2



70. Let's go to fact number two. The Scriptures also describe it as an audible event. Let's take our Bibles and go back to the words of Jesus in Matthew 24 verse 31.



MATTHEW 24:31

"And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

71. The Bible says, "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Now, I know that's just one sentence, but we need to look at it in a little more depth. When Jesus comes, what's going to be blowing? A trumpet. Now, I don't know what a heavenly trumpet sounds like. I do, however, know what an earthly trumpet sounds like.



72. *(You can substitute your own story here about playing an instrument).*

Alex used to play the trumpet. Alex was a 10 year old boy whose school was offering music lessons one year. His mother always wanted to have a little boy who played the piano, and she encouraged him to sign up. So he did. And for about a year Alex took piano lessons.



73. But when a boy is 10 years old, do you think he would rather stay in the house and practice for an hour or go out and play with his friends? What do you think? Alex was more interested in playing with his friends. So eventually Alex quit, much to the dismay of his mother.



74. But a year later his school was offering music lessons again, and this time somebody introduced him to a different instrument. You can probably guess what that was. Yes, the trumpet! So Alex compared the two instruments. On one hand, the piano has 88 keys. On the other hand, the trumpet has three buttons. Which one's going to be the easiest to play? Alex chose the instrument with three buttons. So he took trumpet lessons!



75. Now, I don't know if you realize this but when you play the piano, it's not always obvious if you miss a note. There are so many keys and you've got 10 fingers that you can put on those keys. So, you can miss a few notes and, unless you are a music teacher, most people won't even realize it. But the trumpet is different! If you miss a note on the trumpet, everybody knows. You can't hide it because that squeaking, squealing sound is about as annoying as when you put your fingernails across a chalkboard.



76. So, Alex would go home and practice his trumpet. Now you have to understand, Alex grew up in the inner city. He lived in what they called row homes. (Slide of row homes)-- How many people here know what a row home is? Could I see your hands? Row homes mean they're all in a row. There is no space between them. The houses have adjoining walls. So, if the family on the other side of the wall is being loud, you're going to hear it.



77. You can imagine, then, what happened. When Alex was practicing his trumpet, the family on the other side of the wall knew it! But finally, it came to the place where he gave up the trumpet too.. Needless to say, his mother wasn't very happy. But the people on the other side of the wall were!



78. Now, if an earthly trumpet is loud, what will a heavenly trumpet sound like? Just like the servants would blow the trumpets to announce the coming of the king in the days old, angels are going to be blowing the heavenly trumpets to announce the coming of the King of Kings, and Bible prophecy tells me that those trumpets are so loud that they will even wake the dead!

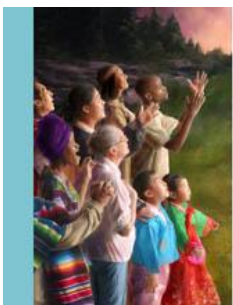
It's right there in 1st Thessalonians 4:16-18.



1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.

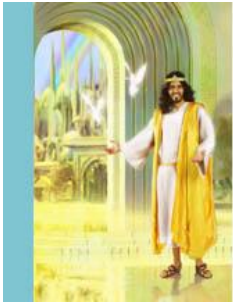
79. The Bible says: *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.*



1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

80. *And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*

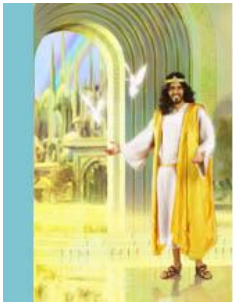


I THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

- 81.** *And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

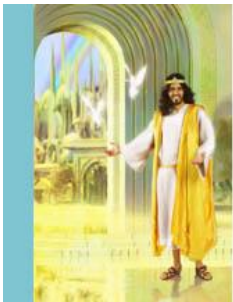
I love this verse! It says the Lord Himself is coming! He's not just sending the angels to do the job. The Lord Himself is coming! If you want to say hallelujah to anything, it ought to be to that!



I THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

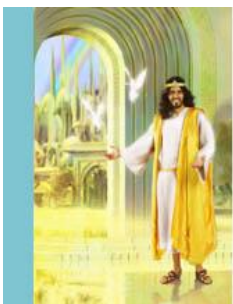
- 82.** But notice what else those verses say. The Lord Himself is coming with a shout. The voice of the archangel resonates throughout the globe. The trumpet of God echoes throughout this planet. And the Bible says it pierces the walls of the grave.



I THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

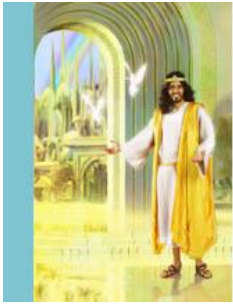
- 83.** The dead in Christ are going to rise. They're going to meet the Lord in the air. And then those believers who are alive when Jesus comes will also rise to meet Him in the air. And the Bible says, "*Thus we shall always be with the Lord.*" I can't tell you how many times I have read those verses at a funeral to a grieving family.



I THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

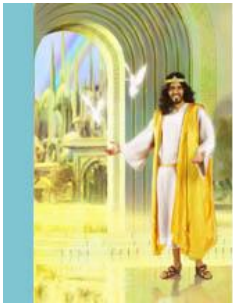
- 84.** But now I want to ask you something. Do we understand how magnificent that day will be? Imagine how loved ones who have been separated by death will be reunited again. How many people have sat at a funeral home and watched the tears flow? How many people have sat by the bedside of someone whose life was ebbing away and the grief was almost overwhelming?



I THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.⁹

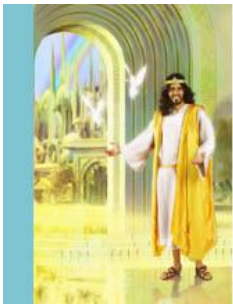
- 85.** You see, Bible prophecy tells me there is hope in the midst of pain. There can be joy in the midst of sorrow. There can be light in the midst of darkness. They will only be gone for a little while. The day when we are reunited is coming. Then on that day, when Jesus comes in earth's last hour, we're given the gift of immortality. Brothers and sisters are reunited, grandparents and grandchildren are reunited. Whole families are reunited!
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I THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.⁹

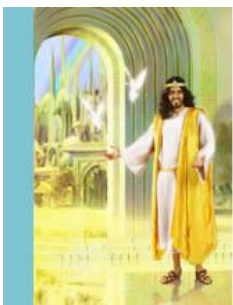
- 86.** To make this real, I want to tell you a story about John and Rachel. They were a beautiful, newly-wedded couple in their early twenties. They had just graduated from seminary and were getting ready to give their lives in service to the Lord.
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I THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.⁹

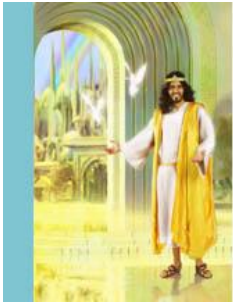
- 87.** And so, the first call that they took, their very first assignment, they chose to be missionaries over in Korea. They decided to work at an English language institute so they could teach English to the people and that was an avenue for them to make friends and be able to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But they were there for just a couple of months when Rachel started to get sick and no one knew why. At first, they thought it just might be the common cold or maybe it's just the flu. But as the weeks went on, instead of getting better, she actually grew worse.
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I THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.⁹

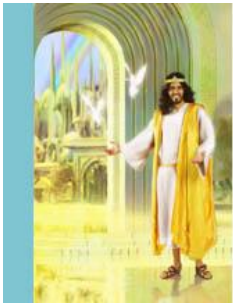
- 88.** None of the doctors knew what was going on. It finally came to a point where she had to be flown back to the States. She went to a hospital to be examined—and they discovered that she had a very serious form of cancer already in its late stages and nothing could be done. Right away people started prayer chains. Groups of people around the world petitioned God. Churches began to pray. This was going all over the internet. And for reasons I don't understand, for reasons I can't fully explain, despite all the prayers, Rachel died anyway, and John was heartbroken.



1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.'

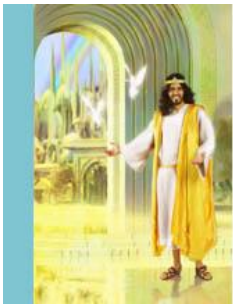
- 89.** You see, all of us have probably gone through experiences where we wondered, "Why God? I don't understand. Why God do you let this newly wedded couple giving their lives to ministry face such tragedy?" Brad was a widower in his 20s. His wife was gone. It's not fair. It's not just.



1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.'

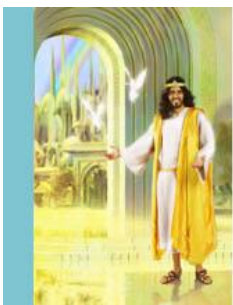
- 90.** *"Why God?" How many of us have ever asked that question? The truth is, on this earth we may never know why, but what Bible prophecy promises us is that on the day when Jesus comes, all wrongs will be made right, and people will be re-united. And it was all made possible because of what Jesus did on the cross for us. Can you say amen?*



1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.'

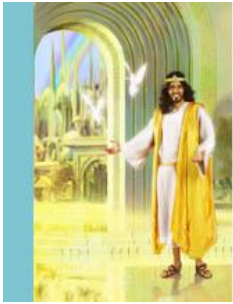
- 91.** On the day when he comes and we are reunited, then perhaps the answers we couldn't get on this earth, we can get directly from the mouth of Jesus. How many of us are looking forward to seeing someone that we've lost?



1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.'

- 92.** *(Tell a story of someone you are looking forward to seeing again. Try to put a picture of them on the screen. You can use my story as an example).* I'm looking forward to seeing my Grandma Esther again. She died when she was 95 or 96. I remember going to her house every Thursday night when my parents would go grocery shopping. They'd drop me off at grandma's house for the evening. I'd play with Spotty, the dog, and Pumpkin and Calico, the cats. She would take me to Jim and Nina's pizzeria shop across the street and we would eat pizza and ice cream together.



1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words:

93. I can remember Grandma Esther and I would read the Bible together, and she'd talk about how wonderful it would be in Heaven with animals that don't hurt each other. She was a real animal lover. She was one of the most Godly women I ever knew. Even though Alzheimer's disease took her away from us, I'm looking forward to the day of the resurrection when we can be reunited again.

1 THESSALONIANS 15:55, 57

"O, death, where is thy sting? O, grave, where is thy victory? . . . But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."



94. And on that day we can say what Paul wrote long ago: "*O, death, where is thy sting? O, grave, where is thy victory? . . . But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Can you say amen to that? I'm looking forward to being able to utter those words, not because I'm good, not because we have any power in us, but because we have put our faith in Jesus Christ.

- Sky Recedes as a Scroll.
- Mountains & Islands Moved Out of Place.
- He Comes in the Clouds.
- He Comes With Power & Glory.
- Trumpets Are Blowing.
- Tribes of the Earth Are Mourning.
- The Lord Descends With a Shout.
- Voice of the Archangel Is Heard.
- Dead Are Resurrected From the Grave

95. Now, so far this is a summary of what the Bible has told us. When Jesus comes, the sky recedes as a scroll. Mountains and islands are moved out of the places. We see him in the clouds. It happens with power and great glory. Trumpets are blowing. Tribes of the earth are mourning. The Lord descends with a shout. The voice of the archangel is heard. The dead are resurrected and meet the Lord in the air. The sky recedes as a scroll, mountain and islands were moved out of their places.

- Sky Recedes as a Scroll.
- Mountains & Islands Moved Out of Place.
- He Comes in the Clouds.
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- The Lord Descends With a Shout.
- Voice of the Archangel Is Heard.
- Dead Are Resurrected From the Grave

96. I think it will be kind of hard to miss that, don't you? And so here's what I want to invite you to do. Even though there's many different doctrines floating around about the coming of Jesus Christ, you just take those doctrines and compare them to what the Bible says in all these verses. Because when you allow the Bible to be your guide, it will help you to meander through all the different teachings that are in the world today.

- Sky Recedes as a Scroll.
- Mountains & Islands Moved Out of Place.
- He Comes in the Clouds.
- He Comes With Power & Glory.
- Trumpets Are Blowing.
- Tribes of the Earth Are Mourning.
- The Lord Descends With a Shout.
- Voice of the Archangel Is Heard.
- Dead Are Resurrected From the Grave.

97. When I allow the Scriptures to be my source of truth, then I realize it's not about what the preacher says, it's not about what the biggest church in town says, it's about what God says in His Word. All I have to do is open up the Word of God, surrender my heart, and let the Scriptures speak for themselves.

IT WILL BE GLORIOUS

FACT 3



98. Lastly, we have fact number three. The coming of Jesus is a glorious event. Notice what Jesus says in Matthew 16 verse 27.



MATTHEW 16:27

"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

99. The Bible says, *"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."*



MATTHEW 16:27

"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

100. This verse tells us two things. Number one, it says He's coming in the glory of who? His Father. Now, think about this. Has anyone ever seen the full glory of God the Father? No. At least not any human being. The closest one was Moses. The Bible says that when Moses went up into Mount Sinai to get the Ten Commandments, he asked God to show him His glory.



MATTHEW 16:27

"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

101. God told him, "I'll hide you in the cleft of the rock and when my glory passes by you can see My back. But you cannot see My face." When he came down from the mountain what did the people notice about Moses' face? It glowed so bright from being in God's presence they couldn't stand to be near him. They told him to wear a veil over his face. I wonder what it will be like when Jesus comes with the full, unveiled glory of God the Father.



MATTHEW 16:27

"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

102. Number two, in addition to that, He's not only coming with the glory of His Father, but He's coming in the glory of His angels too. There's a story in the Old Testament about how Assyria encamped against Israel. Assyria was an enemy of God's people. They came to attack them. And to protect Israel, the Bible says God sent an angel into the camp of the Assyrians. That one angel slew 185,000 Assyrian soldiers.



MATTHEW 16:27

"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

103. Now, if one angel can do that, what will it be like when Jesus comes with millions of His glorious angels along with the full, unveiled glory of the Father? That's going to be the most eye-popping event, the most fantastic thing this world has ever seen. Better than any special effects Hollywood can do. And Bible prophecy says it's coming one day very soon.

THE RETURN OF JESUS

1. Is a Visible Event
2. Is an Audible Event
3. Is a Glorious Event

104. This is our summary of what we've learned tonight. Number one, the return of Jesus is a visible event. Number two, it's an audible event. And finally, number three, what else is it? It's a glorious event. But here's the real question. What does it mean to you? It's good to know how Jesus will come, because it keeps us from being confused or deceived. But the truth is, just knowing that information intellectually isn't going to save me. Jesus gets to the heart of the matter in one simple statement. Notice what He says in Matthew 24 verse 44.



MATTHEW 24:44

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

105. The Bible says, "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Jesus says He'll come when we're not expecting Him. That doesn't mean Jesus is trying to surprise us. God knows that in the last days we'll tend to be so busy and distracted that we won't be paying attention. The real question is, am I ready to see the face of Jesus? Am I paying attention to my relationship with Him?



106. When you accept Jesus as your Savior, your sinful life is replaced by His perfect life. Revelation says there's a record book in heaven of all of our lives. That's almost scary to think about. But the Gospel tells us that when we accept Jesus, the perfect life that He lived is placed in our record book. So that when God looks at the record of your life, He doesn't see all your sins and your mistakes. He sees the perfect life of Jesus that is now counting for you!



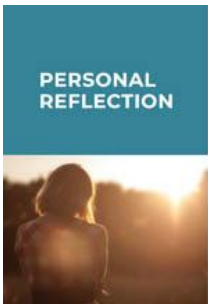
107. Do you understand what that means? That means when he looks at you, he sees someone who is perfect. Not because you really are, but because Jesus' righteousness has been given to you. When He died on the cross of Calvary, He took your guilt, your shame, and your unrighteousness. That's what it means to have Jesus Christ as a personal savior, a substitute, and a redeemer.



108. You may say, "Well, Pastor, how can I be ready for Jesus to come?" The best way to be ready to meet Jesus is to simply nurture your spiritual life and spend time with Jesus every single day. How do you spend time with Jesus? That's what the daily devotional life is for. The daily devotional life is one of the most important things for the Christian in these last days.

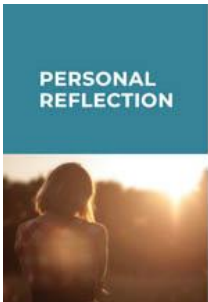


109. In fact, if I don't have a daily devotional life, then I'm already deceived and distracted. The more I open up this book and spend time in it, the more the Holy Spirit is able to transform my heart and my mind. Over the weeks and months to come, the Holy Spirit will make changes in me that I could never make for myself. If you'd like to know how to have a meaningful daily devotional life, if you'd like to know how to spend quality time with Jesus, please come see me after the meeting tonight. Or maybe we'll hold a special class later in the seminar.



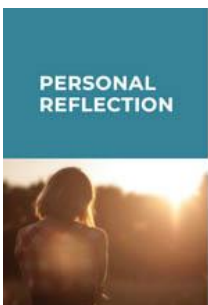
1. Are You Ready for Jesus To Come?
2. Have You Received Him Into Your Life?
3. Are You Taking Your Relationship With Christ Seriously?

110. Tonight we have talked about the soon return of Jesus Christ. So now, let's bring it home to the heart. Let's apply this in a very personal way. I would encourage you to ask yourself these three questions. Are you ready for Jesus to come? Have you received Him into your life? Are you taking your relationship with Christ seriously? If you can't answer 'yes' to those questions, then I would invite you to go home and find a quiet place, get on your knees, and settle it with Jesus.



1. Are You Ready for Jesus To Come?
2. Have You Received Him Into Your Life?
3. Are You Taking Your Relationship With Christ Seriously?

111. Talk to Him from your heart and say, *“Lord, if there’s anything standing between me and you, if there’s anything keeping me from having that confidence and assurance, Lord show me what it is. Help me to fully give my heart to You.”*



1. Are You Ready for Jesus To Come?
2. Have You Received Him Into Your Life?
3. Are You Taking Your Relationship With Christ Seriously?

112. Maybe you lack that assurance because of some things you've done in the past. Maybe you're struggling in your life right now and you feel as though you don't measure up. Maybe the enemy has taken away your joy and filled your heart with guilt. I want to share something with you from the classic book Steps to Christ where the author makes this powerful statement.

“

Jesus loves to have us come to Him just as we are, sinful, helpless, dependent. We may come with all our weakness, our folly, our sinfulness,

STEPS TO CHRIST
PAGE 54



113. “Jesus loves to have us come to Him just as we are, sinful, helpless, dependent. We may come with all our weakness, our folly, our sinfulness,

“

and fall at His feet in penitence. It is His glory to encircle us in the arms of His love and to bind us from all impurity.”

STEPS TO CHRIST
PAGE 54



114. and fall at His feet in penitence. It is His glory to encircle us in the arms of His love and to bind us from all impurity.”

“

and fall at His feet in penitence. It is His glory to encircle us in the arms of His love and to bind us from all impurity.”

STEPS TO CHRIST
PAGE 54



115. Let that statement sink in. Jesus says He will never leave us, He will never forsake us. All He invites us to do is come. As sinful as we are, with all the mistakes we have made, He invites us to come to Him. His righteousness will cover our unrighteousness. He will give us the assurance of salvation. Tonight, is it your desire to say, “*Lord, I want to have the assurance of salvation. I want to be with You in the Kingdom of Heaven*”? Is it your desire to spend eternity with Jesus?

“

and fall at His feet in penitence. It is His glory to encircle us in the arms of His love and to bind us from all impurity.”

STEPS TO CHRIST
PAGE 54



116. I want to give you a few minutes of silence so you can talk to Jesus. Tell Him what’s on your heart tonight. We’re going to have some music softly playing in the background for about 60 seconds. I invite you to take this time to open your heart to Christ. Ask Him to give you the assurance of salvation. Ask Him to give you peace. Invite Him to come into your life. Let’s each of us bow our heads at this time.

(Music playing for about 60 second, then you offer closing prayer).



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight's study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I'd like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

117. As we close our meeting tonight, be sure to fill out your response card and hand it in at the registration table. Remember we use these response cards each night. These are the cards that allow you to ask questions, submit prayer requests, or make comments. Then we use these cards for the drawing for the free gift the next night. So if you want to have an opportunity for the free gift, be sure to hand in your response card at the registration table, or place it in the bucket at the end of each row.



118. Heavenly Father, we are thankful for this marvelous truth that You are coming soon. You have not abandoned us in this world. You have not left us alone. We ask that You would give each one of us the assurance and confidence that we are right with You. And if there is anyone here tonight struggling with that assurance deep in their heart, I ask that You speak to their hearts and give them peace.



119. And now, with every head bowed and every eye closed, if you would simply like to say, *“Lord Jesus, I want to be with you in the Kingdom of Heaven. Lord, I want you to save me. Lord I want peace,”* would you just slip up your hand right now?



120. Every head is bowed, every eye is closed. My eyes are the only ones that are open. Just raise your hand and reach out to the Lord. He will not forsake you. You're saying, *“Lord, I desire that you save me. I want to be with you in the Kingdom of Heaven.”* Just slip up your hand at this time. Father, you see any hands that are raised, and we pray as they leave here tonight, You would give them the peace that passes all understanding, knowing that Jesus is their Savior. This we ask and pray in His precious name. Amen.

