

There's a Great Day Coming!

John 5:28-29

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** In the late 1800s/early 1900s a member of the Lord's church was noted as a writer of hymns.

A. The man's name was Will Lamartine Thompson; was born/raised in far eastern Ohio.

B. Some of the hymns he wrote are readily recognizable by most brethren:

(1) *Jesus Is All the World to Me*

(2) *Lead Me Gently Home, Father*

(3) *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

C. He wrote a very thought-provoking hymn in 1887 pertinent to our lesson: *There's a Great Day Coming*; it goes like this:

3 *There's a great day coming,
A great day coming;
There's a great day coming by and by,
When the saints and the sinners
Shall be parted right and left,
Are you ready for that day to come?*

4 *There's a bright day coming,
A bright day coming;
There's a bright day coming by and by.
But its brightness shall only come
To them that love the Lord.
Are you ready for that day to come?*

5 *There's a sad day coming,
A sad day coming;
There's a sad day coming by and by,
When the sinner shall hear his doom:
Depart, I know you not!
(chorus)*

6 *Are you ready for that day to come?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
For the judgment day?*

2. **7** Brother Thompson was correct! There is a **Great Day** coming!

Jude 6: "And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for **the judgment of the great day...**"

Jn. 5:28-29: "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

3. **8** The title of our lesson tonight is **There's a Great Day Coming!** ******And, we want to consider five things about that Great Day:

1 **Christ will come again!**

2 **We don't know when it will come!**

3 **All will be resurrected and judged!**

4 **A great separation will be made!**

5 **Preparation is necessary!**

II. DISCUSSION:

There's a Great Day Coming when...

1. **9** **Christ will come again!**

A. The overwhelming majority of people living now, that have ever lived, or will ever live in the future either don't believe or ignore the fact Jesus is coming again!

B. The Scriptures make it crystal clear He is coming again!

Jn. 14:3: “And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again** and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

Acts 1:9-11: “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.**”

Heb. 9:28: “so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him **He will appear a second time**, apart from sin, for salvation.”

C. ** The apostle Peter refers to those who deny this fact as “scoffers”; they “scoff,” or “mock” the notion the Lord is coming again:

2 Pet. 3:3-4: “...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, ‘**Where is the promise of His coming?** For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’”

(1) They deride, ridicule and deny the fact the Great Day is coming (e.g., the ‘New Atheists’ like Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens).

“God must have a weird sense of values, and if there’s a Judgment Day, as some folks think, He’s going to have a lot to answer for.” —Philip Appleman (Indiana University professor of poetry)

(2) They do so out of unbelief; they prefer to live as their own “god” (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

Jude 17-19a: “But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. 19 These are sensual persons...”

(3) Unfortunately, some Christians are “scoffers” also.

(a) They would never admit it; in fact, when asked if they were “scoffers” they would vehemently deny it!

(b) In speech they would never deny the Lord is coming again; but in manner of life they live as if He were never coming again.

Phil. 3:18-19: “(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)”

(c) One who professes to believe in Christ, but lives as if He isn’t coming again is foolish and a hypocrite! Matt. 25:1-11

Titus 1:16: “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

Matt. 25:11-12: “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ 12 But he answered and said, ‘**Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.**’”

(d) Can you imagine hearing those words on that Great Day?!

D. We should reserve a few minutes each day to contemplate a **There’s a Great Day Coming!** 2 Cor. 13:5

There's a Great Day Coming but...

2 **10** We don't know when it will come!

A. Jesus taught often the time of His second was **unknown**.

(1) The faithful and unfaithful servants: Matt. 25:45-51

- (a) Contrasts two servants waiting for their master's return.
- (b) One servant is faithfully doing his duty while the master is away.
- (c) But the other, the "evil servant," is not; he takes advantage of the situation ("that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and he begins to beat his fellow servants, to eat and drink with the drunkards,"; vv. 48-49)
- (d) The master returns unexpectedly ("the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of," v. 50).
 - (i) The faithful/watchful/ready servant is "blessed" by his master ("Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.," v. 47)
 - (ii) The evil/unfaithful servant who took advantage of the master's delay to not do his job is severely punished ("and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.," v. 51).

(2) The wise and foolish virgins: Matt. 25:1-11

- (a) Christians are compared to ten virgins who are going to meet the bridegroom.
 - (i) The five "wise" virgins are totally prepared for the bridegroom ("but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.," v. 4).
 - (ii) On the other hand, the five "foolish" virgins were only partially prepared ("took their lamps and took no oil with them.," v. 3).
- (b) The bridegroom (i.e., Jesus) "was delayed" (v. 5).
- (c) Instead of taking advantage of the delay to finish their preparation, the "foolish" virgins "slumbered and slept" (v. 5).
- (d) Suddenly, unexpectedly the bridegroom comes!
 - (i) The "wise" virgins are obviously ready.
 - (ii) But the "foolish" virgins were not and tried to borrow oil from the "wise" virgins (v. 8).
 - (iii) But, you can't borrow preparation! **Matt. 25:9**: "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'"
 - (iv) So, the "foolish" virgins are then forced to try to go buy some oil.
 - (v) While they were on their shopping trip "those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut." (v. 10)
 - (vi) When the "foolish" virgins returned it was too late! "Lord, Lord, open to us!" 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'" (vv. 9-10)
- (e) **Take home message**: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." (v. 13)

- B. ****** Also in Matthew's gospel, Jesus compares His second coming to the flood in the days of Noah: **Matt. 24:36-44**
- (1) The majority of people today are just like those in Noah's time ("they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark."; v.38).
 - (2) They were oblivious to the truth! And, they didn't care that they were oblivious!
 - (3) Take home message:
 - ❶ "Watch therefore, for you do not know **what hour your Lord is coming.**" (v. 42)
 - ❷ "Therefore you also **be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (v. 44)

There's a Great Day Coming when...

3. I I All will be resurrected and judged!

- A. Jesus makes this crystal clear in John 5:28-29:

Jn. 5:28-29: "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

- B. ****** The apostle Paul confirms this great truth:

Acts 24:15: "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust."

I Cor. 15:21-22: "For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."

- C. **I 2** Some religious group claiming to be Christians deny this important truth.

- (1) Some teach **annihilation** (explain; for the wicked "When you're dead you're dead all over, just like Rover."); Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, and even some of our own brethren (e.g., Homer Hailey: *God's Judgments and Punishments*).
- (2) Some deny the resurrection (e.g., 70 AD error) deny there will be a resurrection (just like "Hymenaeus and Philetus" "who have strayed concerning the truth, saying the resurrection is already past, and they overthrow the faith of some."; 2 Tim. 2:17-18).

- D. ****** One reason both the wicked and righteous will be raised is so they will have bodies suited for eternity; Paul describes this in I Corinthians 15:35-54.

- (1) The resurrected body will be much different than the material body we have now.
- (2) He describes it as "a spiritual body" (v. 44); and as an "incorruptible" body (v. 52).
- (3) We will be given a new body suited for the environment of eternity.

☛ **Righteous: Phil. 3:20-21:** "...we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."

☛ **Wicked: Mk. 9:43-44:** "...to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched — 44 where 'Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'"

There's a Great Day Coming when...

4. **13** A great separation will take be made!

A. Jesus describes this separation in Matthew 25:31-46

Matt. 25:31-35: “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...’”

Matt. 25:41: “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...’”

B. Imagine being eternally separated from all of your loved ones!

Lk. 16:26: “And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.”

C. Imagine being eternally separated from God, from all that is good, from all hope! **Not one single thing to look forward to FOREVER!**

2 Thess. 1:7-9: “...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,”

D. No wonder hell is described as:

- ☛ “everlasting fire” (Matt. 25:41).
- ☛ “outer darkness...weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 8:12).

E. No wonder:

(1) Jesus said: **Matt 10:28:** “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

(2) Paul said: **Heb 10:31:** “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

F. But, in my mind, even if there were no hell, the fact the saved will “transform[ed] our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body.” is worth any sacrifice in this life!

(1) Is it any wonder with this glorious future in store for us, Paul said, “we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body”?

(2) We don't know exactly what this glorified body will be like, but just that it will be like the Lord's glorified body...that's enough for me!

1 Jn :2: “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

(3) And with this glorified body in view, note what John concludes:

1 Jn. 2:3: “And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

There's a Great Day Coming when there will be...

5. **14** Preparation is necessary!

- A. I've said it many times from this pulpit, but it bears repeating: "Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people."
- B. I've also said this many times from the pulpit: "I've never been to a funeral where it wasn't said of the deceased, "Now they are in a better place."
- (1) I don't mean to be harsh, but the notion that the deceased is always "in a better place" (i.e., heaven) is one of Satan's greatest lies!
 - (2) I know so because Jesus said so:
Matt. 7:13-14: "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."
- C. ****** That false statement so often heard is mostly due to ignorance, willful ignorance.
- (1) Google: "As of October 2017 the full Bible has been translated into 670 languages, the New Testament alone into 1521 languages and Bible portions or stories into 1121 other languages.
 - (2) By comparison, the second-most translated book or story is *Pinocchio* which has been translated into 260 languages.
 - (3) According to Google over 3.9 billion copies of the Bible have been sold in the past 50 years; 2nd place is "Quotation from the Works of Mao Tse-tung" at 820 million copies sold, 3rd place is "Harry Potter" with 400 million copies sold.
 - (4) Nearly **9** in **10** households own at least one Bible (**88%**) and the average number of Bibles per household is **4.7**. Being pro-Bible doesn't necessarily mean Americans use the Bible regularly, however. Only 37% of Americans report reading the Bible once a week or more." (Google)
- D. **15** That last stat identifies the problem: "Only 37% of Americans report reading the Bible once a week or more."
- E. I'm pretty confident, given Jesus' stark statements in Matthew 7:13-14, even the few who do read the Bible don't obey what the Bible says.
- Lk. 6:46:** "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"
- Acts 10:35:** "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."
- 1 Jn. 2:3-5:** "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."
- 1 Jn. 5:3:** "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments."
- F. All spiritual blessings are "in Christ" (Eph. 1:3); if we want to go to heaven on Judgment Day it is pretty simple: We must do whatever is necessary to get "in Christ" and stay "in Christ."

III. CONCLUSION: 16

1. There's a Great Day Coming! That's 100% for certain!
2. On that day you and I will all have to give an account for how we've lived our lives:
2 Cor. 5:10: *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*
3. How does that make you feel? Does it give you "pause" as we say? Does it give you a sense of dread? Or, does it give you a sense of impending joy?
 - A. Do you agree with the apostle John?
Rev. 22:20: *"Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"*
 - B. Do you agree with the apostle Paul?
2 Tim. 4:6-8: *"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."*
 - C. How do you think Paul reacted after he made that statement 2 Corinthians 5:10?
2 Cor. 5:11: *"Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..."*
 - D. He understood *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."* (Heb. 10:31).
4. ** The chorus of Brother Thompson's song says:
*There's a great day coming,
A great day coming;
Are you ready for that day to come?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
For the judgment day?*
5. That great day will either be the worst day of your life or the best...which will it be for you?