



WILMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

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Never Forget the Promise of His Return

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lust 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 the creation” **II Peter 3:3,4**

The word “scoffers” comes from the Greek word *empaiktes* - one who makes light of, whether by their teachings, taunting, or trivializing the subject. (The reality is that the return of Christ is no small matter to them – scoffers despise and deny this truth because all their aspirations depend upon the continuance of the present order of things!) Scoffers know that God has intervened in the direction of the world before and will again!

God’s children have confirmation of Christ’s return in God’s word; the indwelling Holy Spirit confirms this in every True Believer. **Romans 5:1-5**. Although His New Testament Church seeks no signs for proof, we see the political, social, natural, economic, and religious signs are evidence of His soon return. **II Timothy 3 and Matthew 24** We need only to look around to see the lures of evil men and seducers; this can give no hope in man’s attempt to better our world.

We must guard ourselves against the defilement of this present world: **I John 3:3** – *Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Why?* **Phil 1:20** – *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death.* **I John 3:2** – *Beloved now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.*

He is coming as a thief in the night (silently, swiftly, selectively) to catch away His elect, including His Bride. With this blessed assurance of His coming, we are comforted to wait hopefully, patiently, preserved unto that day of His return. And we eagerly anticipate His promise that we will be with Him and like Him. **II Cor 5:1,2** – *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. For in this we groan earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.*

The next prophetic occurrence will be the Rapture of the Saints. *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come* **Matt 24:42**

Norman Patterson, Adult Sunday School Teacher

Upcoming Events

- July 3, 8:00 pm – Fellowship and Fireworks review
- July 2, 9, 16, 23 – Bible Club in Denver Williams Park (Fife Ave), pre-VBS roundup 11-2pm
- July 25-29 – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL- *Code of the West Round Up*
- July 10 & 24, 5:30 pm – Youth New Believers’ Discipleship Class
- July 17 & 31, 5:30 – Children’s Choir Practice