

**"CHRIST'S SECOND COMING"****Introduction**

1. The gospel enables us to face the future
2. Very serious events lie ahead
3. We need Christ's help to face them

**Theme:** The Second coming of Christ

**1. THE WAY TO THINK OF BELIEVERS WHO DIE**

- 1) v.13: It is important to know this clearly:
  - (i) "asleep" here: How to interpret it  
**OBSERVE:** Christ uses this term also: Examples
  - (ii) what we mean by the "Intermediate State"  
**OBSERVE:** Christians, but no others, have hope
- 2) v.14: The basis of this hope:
  - (i) the doctrine of the Cross and Resurrection
  - (ii) believers now are "in Jesus". Explain
  - (iii) "asleep in Jesus" – a blessed state
- 3) The blessed dead: God "will bring":
  - (i) their bodies to be changed
  - (ii) the nature of this change  
**APPLICATION:** Our comfort

**2. THE CONDITION OF BELIEVERS WHEN CHRIST COMES**

- 1) A subject on which God has spoken:
  - (i) v.15: "by the word of the Lord"
  - (ii) then will be believers when He comes.
  - (iii) These will not enter glory first
- 2) The divinely-appointed order: v.16-17
  - (i) Christ's descant from heaven
  - (ii) the dead in Christ to rise first

- (iii) the living in Christ to rise next
- (iv) both to be forever with Christ

- 3) **Summary** of our various states, etc:
  - (i) the living believer: why he dies
  - (ii) the dead believer: perfect, not complete
  - (iii) funeral: biblical method is by burial
  - (iv) the conduct proper: sorrow, but in hope
  - (v) funeral: not a "celebration of a life"
  - (vi) the resurrected believer: complete  
**TEXTS:** 2 Cor. 5:1f; 1 Cor. 15
  - (vii) the eternal state of glory  
**APPLICATION:** This is profound comfort (v.18)

**3. THE CONDITION OF ALL UNBELIEVERS THEN**

- 1) The difference not obvious now – but will be:
  - (i) both have ups and downs in life
  - (ii) both have death to face + go through
- 2) But there is complete difference at death:
  - (i) the soul of the believer goes up
  - (ii) the soul of the unbeliever goes down  
**OBSERVE:** Christ's teaching in Luke 16
- 3) Paul describes the End of the Unconverted:
  - (i) v.3: they flatter themselves
  - (ii) v.3: "sudden destruction"
  - (iii) v.3: no escape possible: **ILLUSTRATION:** a woman
- 4) The great lesson from all this:
  - (i) v.6: "let us not sleep"
  - (ii) v.9-10: look at the difference!

**CONCLUSION**

1. Are you in Christ, or not?
2. Do you see the difference?
3. It is all through God's love.

**PSALM****36: 5 – 10****73: 19 – 24****16: 7 – 11**