

Conversation Starter

For the week of June 22 to 28, 2008

This week's theme: Jesus Is Coming Back

Reading #1: 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Reading #2: Luke 21:25-36

Reading #3: Revelation 1:7

All three readings noted above remind us that someday Jesus is coming back. The apostle Paul writes that Jesus will come back with "all His holy ones." (See 1 Thessalonians 3:13 from Reading #1.) Jesus Himself said that He will return "in a cloud with power and great glory." (See Luke 21:27 from Reading #2.) And the author of the book of Revelation, the apostle John, states that Jesus is "coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him..." (See Revelation 1:7 from Reading #3.) In the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds we declare: "*He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*" Therefore, one of the core beliefs within Christianity is that Jesus is coming back to earth at some point in the future. As His followers, we are to look forward to His second coming. Even though we do not know the day or hour of Christ's return, it's about 2000 years closer than it was when He ascended into heaven. As the children sing in a praise song about the 2nd coming of Jesus: *Jesus will come again although we don't know when, the countdown's getting lower everyday. Ten and nine, eight and seven, six and five and four ... call upon the Saviour while you may. Three and two, coming through, the clouds in bright array ... the countdown's getting lower everyday.*

1. How does knowing that Jesus is coming back help you get through difficult and stressful times?
2. How does knowing that Jesus is coming back bring you encouragement and hope?
3. In what ways will the return of Christ be very different than His 1st coming?
4. How are we to respond to people who believe they know exactly when Jesus will return?
5. How are you preparing for Christ's return? Do you feel prepared? Explain your answer.
6. When the apostle Paul wrote that Jesus will be returning with "all His holy ones", what did he mean?
7. When the apostle John wrote that "every eye will see Jesus" when He returns, describe the differences in how Christians and non-Christians will respond when this time comes.

Prepared on: Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Prepared by: The Rev. Robert Roe