

We Believe in Christ's Return (*Various Texts*)

EFCA Statement of Faith, Article 9

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, requires constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

A Real Return

- Christ will return to earth:
 - Personally: Not sending angels or messengers in His place
 - Bodily: In a physical way
 - Glorious: In a manner that all will see
 - Matt. 16:27; 19:28; 24:30; 25:31; 26:64; Mk. 8:38; Lk. 9:26; 21:27; Acts 1:11; Col. 3:4; 2 Thess. 1:6-8, 10; Tit. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:7; 4:13; 5:1, 4; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-21

The Timeline of Jesus' Return

- This means that we should:
 - NOT be spending time trying to figure it out
 - But, be constantly prepared for it (Matt. 24:42-51; Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Js. 5:8,9; 2 Pet. 3:10-14; Rev. 3:3)
- There are different views about the timing of Christ's return
 - Premillennial, Postmillennial, Amillennial
- As well as the Church's role during the last days leading up to His return
 - Pretribulation, Mid-tribulation, and Post-tribulation Rapture
- However, all these views can be supported by Scripture to greater & lesser degrees
 - Which means that one's view on these things is not essential
 - What is essential is believing that Christ *is* returning!

Our Hope & Motivator

- Jesus' return is our blessed hope (Tit. 2:13; Heb. 9:28)
- It is supposed to motivate us to:
 - Godly living (1 John 3:2-3; 2 Pet. 3:10-14)
 - Energetic service (Matt. 24:45-46; 2 Tim. 4:8; Tit. 2:14)
 - Be on mission
 - So that others will be ready to meet Jesus when He comes again (2 Pet. 3:8-12)

So What?

- Jesus is coming back!
- Are we ready?
- Are we preparing others to meet Him?