

Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

Date: 19 December 2018
Services: 7pm Traditional lessons and carols
Series: Christ(mas) is coming
Passage: Hebrews 9:26b-28
Title: ... and he will bring salvation

He has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

- Throughout December this year, we have been reflecting on the amazing reality that will be ours when Jesus returns.
- We've seen that we shall see Jesus' face to face
- That we'll be **like** him
- That we will **know stuff** we can't possibly know now...
- Next Sunday – we'll see that we will be without fault... in the new creation...
- But tonight... after these wonderful readings and carols, I want to think very briefly with you about the fact that when Jesus returns – as the reading from the letter to the Hebrews teaches – he will bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.
- You see – Jesus' **first** coming which we've been singing about tonight – is the sure guarantee and promise of his **second** coming.
- But the two comings fulfil two different purposes as you can see...
- When Jesus came first – he came *do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself*...
- Jesus came for many reasons – to reveal the Father – to make God known... to preach – to urge us back into relationship with God...
- ... but the primary reason he came – was to be the one true sacrifice for sin...
- Yes, as the passage says – everyone is destined to die once and then face judgement... but through the reconciling work of Jesus on the cross... you can be safe at the judgement if Jesus has taken away your sin...
- How **brilliant!!** What **comfort!** What **reassurance...**!
- So when Jesus returns... it won't be to **deal with sin** – that has already been **done**
- ...no when he returns it will be to bring **salvation**...
- To bring **an end to evil**
- To bring an end to all our **struggles**
- To **renew** us in body and mind
- To **perfect** us in the image of Jesus...
- To bring **justice**
- To right **wrongs**
- To do away with **death**...

Preaching Christ...
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

- ...to bring us into his **new creation** for all **eternity**...
- **That** will be the salvation he comes to **bring**... //
- To whom is he **bringing** that **sweet salvation**?
- The passage tells us – **those who are waiting for him!**
- That makes sense **doesn't** it?
- Plenty of people **waiting** for – **longing** for – praying for Jesus' return... for the **end** of this world's **corruption** and for the **glory** of the **new creation**...
- And if you're **waiting** for that salvation – with your **trust** in Jesus – your **heart** set on **him** – then it will be **yours!**
- But I you're **not** waiting for it...!?
- If you're waiting and longing instead for **Christmas Day and your presents**... or for the **lotto numbers** to come up for you... or for this world to get **better** – or for **peace** in our time – then you'll be very **disappointed** – both **now** and at the **end**... //
- So as we celebrate **Christmas** this year... remember that his **first** coming as a baby was not an **end** in **itself**... in fact nearly **every carol points that out**...
- No his **first** coming was the **beginning** of God's work to bring about his **final promises**... and we celebrate Christmas **best** – not by looking **back** to the **manger** – but by looking **forward** to **Jesus' return** and the **end time** promises of the **new creation**....!
- ...for **that** is where **everything** is **heading** and **pointing**... **that's** where our **hope lies**...
- That's why Jesus **came** and **is coming**...
- **Christ is coming** – and he will bring **salvation** for **those who are waiting for him** //
- The **question is** – **are** you waiting for **him**??