"THE PREPARATION AND PRAYER FOR THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST"
1 JOHN 2:28-3:3; REVELATION 22:20

INTRO: Over the past few weeks, we have been focusing on the BIBLICAL TRUTH OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST. In doing so, thus far we have studied ***THE PROMISES, THE PURPOSE, AND THE PROCESS OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.*** Today we will be focusing on two very practical aspects of our study that includes ***THE PREPARATION FOR AND THE PRAYER FOR THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST***. Both of these aspects of our study are very PRACTICAL AND PERSONAL in relation to THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST in that they will aid us in our daily walk with and ministry for the Lord. So, let's open up the WORD OF GOD to see what it says about these issues relating to CHRIST'S RETURN, and in addition, let's open up our MINDS AND HEARTS so as to focus more EFFECTIVELY ON ANTICIPATING CHRIST'S ***IMMINENT*** RETURN TO TAKE THOSE OF US WHO KNOW HIM TO HEAVEN.

NOTE: The word "IMMINENT" means THAT WHICH IS IMPENDING AND COULD HAPPEN AT ANY MOMENT. REMEMBER ***THAT THERE IS NOTHING BIBLICALLY REVEALED THAT MUST YET HAPPEN BEFORE THE RAPTURE!***

I. THE PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST
I JOHN 2:28-3:3

NOTE: In my original notes on this series that have been inserted in the bulletin, I have instructed that we should PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S RETURN THROUGH PERSONAL ANTICIPATION AND PERSONAL PURIFICATION. But in our focus on the biblical text for today, we will advance that study somewhat for our personal preparation and spiritual edification through observing four practical concepts regarding being prepared for Christ's Second Coming.

A. The Perpetual Action of the Christian in light of the Second Coming of Christ – 1 John 2:28

"TO ABIDE IN CHRIST"

NOTE: The word "ABIDE" means "TO CONTINUE, TO ENDURE, TO REMAIN, TO DWELL, TO BE PRESENT." By way of personal application "TO ABIDE IN CHRIST" means TO HAVE A CLOSE PERSONAL AND INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM SO AS TO NOT BE ASHAMED OF HIS RETURN.

1. By Knowing Him Personally – DO YOU KNOW CHRIST FOR CERTAIN?
   a. Consider Matthew 7:21-23
   b. Consider 2 Corinthians 13:5
2. By Fellowshipping with Him Persistently – DO YOU FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST REGULARLY?
   a. Through Prayer – Matthew 7:7,8
   b. Through Obedience – John 2:5
   c. Through Service – John 15:16

B. The Present Association of the Christian in light of the Second Coming of Christ – 1 John 3:1,2a

"SONS OF GOD"

"WE SHOULD BE CALLED THE SONS OF GOD" – VS. 1a.
"NOW WE ARE THE SONS OF GOD" – VS. 2a.

NOTE: The word "SONS" is the Greek word "TEKNON" meaning "CHILDREN."

1. According to John 1:12
2. According to Romans 8:14-17

C. The Prospective Anticipation of the Christian in light of the Second Coming of Christ – 1 John 3:2b

"WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM"

NOTE: We cannot NOW fully understand what that will be like. But that we can observe: (Philippians 3:20;21; Corinthians 15:42-54)

1. From the Bodily Perspective – As we will see Christ in His GLORIFIED BODY and will recognize Him for Who He Is, we will also be in our GLORIFIED BODY and will be seen for who we are. Christ in His GLORIFIED BODY could appear and disappear, walk, and talk, could eat (Luke 24:18-43), so shall we.

2. From the Spiritual Perspective – As Christ is ALIVE FOR EVER MORE and WITHOUT SIN, so we will be ALIVE EVER MORE, WITHOUT SIN. (Revelation 21).

D. The Present Admonition of the Christian in light of the Second Coming of Christ – 1 John 3:3

"PURIFIETH HIMSELF, EVEN AS HE IS PURE"

1. Through our faith in Christ's Redemption, our Sins are Cleansed Positionally - 1 John 1:7
2. Through our faith in Christ's Second Coming we maintain Spiritual Cleansing Practically – 1 John 1:9

II. THE PRAYER FOR THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION 22:20

NOTE: After the Lord Jesus revealed to John that He was going to "COME QUICKLY" (Revelation 22:7,12,20), John responded by PRAYING TO THE LORD, **"EVEN SO COME, LORD JESUS."** After realizing that Jesus is going to come again, WE SHOULD PRAY THE SAME. **"EVEN SO COME, LORD JESUS." Why?**

A. To Keep our Focus on Christ's Return
B. To Encourage our Faithfulness in the midst of Trials
C. To Motivate our Fruitfulness in Ministry
D. To Maintain our Fitness in Personal Holiness

LESSON/APPLICATION:

1) Jesus TRULY is coming again? BE HONEST – **ARE YOU READY?**

- Are You Saved?
- Are You Sanctified?
- Are You Serving?

2) ***THIS VERY MOMENT IS THE TIME TO PREPARE…DO NOT DELAY!***