

The Resurrection and the Second Coming of Christ

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Today I want to start a subject that's been on my heart for several weeks if not months, the Resurrection and the Second Coming of Christ, the aspect of living with Jesus not just today but forever. I have been sharing bits and parts of this so this is going to seem like a collage of ideas and perhaps disjointed at times, but I want to bring it back to the understanding of the Second Coming and the Resurrection, to know the heart of God. I want to encourage the people of God in the Church through hard times. Many say the Church has one universal appeal, the message of "*better times are coming.*" *The Second Coming is going to be a better time than what we are going through now. Things may get really rough but it won't always be like this.* Beyond that however, what?

You see when I was growing up in the Church it didn't have much meaning for me as a young man. I was raised in a military family; my father was in the Air Force and we went from country to country and finally settled in Vermont. Things weren't all that bad. We got a black and white TV when everybody else got one; we got a color TV when everyone else got one. We got to watch the wonderful world of color! All these related things, things weren't so bad. The really bad thing (which also had a good side) was we had only one enemy, the Communists. I was never taught that the Devil was my enemy. I was taught that the Russians were. In fact we had drills where we had to hide under our desks when we did "bomb drills," preparing us for an attack if it came. On the bases overseas we were protected by machine guns, tanks and all kinds of artillery as we would walk to school. Interesting. And so, we knew just who our enemy was. Before that our enemy was Japan, then Hitler, and before that the Indians out West!

I remember I had a holster with two toy guns, cap guns and you'd better watch out because "Two Gun Pete" was right there in your face. I always had them loaded with fresh caps. If you crossed me you were going to get the cap gun, "boom, boom, boom." I can remember once when my dad took us to the Navaho reservation, he felt this tug on the back of his trousers, then again as he was trying to take a picture of the Indian Chief. Finally dad looked around and sees me and then realizes that he had been backing up to the cliff's sharp drop off. "*Dad, dad, those Indians are our enemies!*" The Chief recognized immediately what the problem was and came over and gave me a big hug.

So we begin to realize as we grow up that who we thought were our enemies are not that at all. The truth of what is going on becomes more and more real as God begins to paint the picture of reality. We are no longer in the "wonderful world of colored fantasy" but the world of actual color. It was no longer theory but reality. One of things that the Lord has shown me, "*Peter, there are a*

lot of theorists in the world but you are not one of them. You're a technician. It has to work for you." That is including my religion, my faith. If it doesn't work, then throw it away. Quite honestly at that time the resurrection didn't have any meaning for me so I *"threw it away."* Who cares. I am more concerned about whether God loves me or not, more concerned about those kind of things. However, as I grew older the Lord started to paint all the colors of reality into my life. I began to see that the Second Coming had some real meaning other than the fact that I could just get through this life and wait for Him to come again, the Resurrection of the Dead. The establishment of the Kingdom of God is what the Second Coming is all about.

Did you ever think about what Jesus said in John 3:16 that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. Why did He give His Son? It doesn't talk about repentance right there although it is obviously a part of it. Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. And so, as I first became a Christian I thought to myself, *"Yea I have eternal life now but I almost don't care if I have eternal life later."* Apostle Paul kind of rebukes us in his comment, *"We are to be pitied most of all if we didn't believe in the Second Coming of Christ and the Resurrection."* And so, I thought about that more and more lately.

What is the Resurrection?

Jesus was resurrected. Lazarus was resurrected to a *mortal* body and died again later. But Jesus was resurrected and He had an *immortal* body. So it seems there are different kinds of Resurrections. Are we going to be resurrected like Jesus? Or are we going to be resurrected like Lazarus? Then I thought in Genesis it says that the Lord created us in His own image, spiritual and body form. You know as we give birth to our children they are so cute when first born and then they become less cute, the changing of diapers, etc. What a blessing to see creation and hold it in your hand. Just so, when God created us don't you think He felt a little bit like that!? We know He did since after He had created all the fish and all the plants and animals He said, *"This is good."* But after He created us He said, *"This is VERY good!"* Awesome. It is my opinion that there is something about how God made us that He wants us to remember forever, our birth, our creation, who He created us to be. After all, why not be resurrected to an energy form? Why not be resurrected to the new "Apple" or something. . . Why not be resurrected to something you yourself would want? Something else, another creation altogether. However the Lord says, *"No. I want you to be resurrected just as you were as I created you."*

So we see, Jesus was resurrected but just as He was, a skeleton, flesh and bone. etc., however with certain powers that you and I don't have. He walked through walls, He could be transported. He could cause you to not recognize Him, all kinds of things with His new, resurrected body. Cool.

The Second Coming

Is the Second Coming about the resurrection of our earthly bodies? More than that, it is about the establishment of His Kingdom upon this earth forever and ever. The universe is waiting for the Second Coming. Maybe the earth, but the whole universe also? The angels were rejoicing over what God had done when Jesus came the first time. They will more than rejoice the Second Time. They are going to announce it! I thought about other times in the New Testament in which we see a hint of the Resurrection to come. There are all kinds of beliefs out there based upon what you have seen and heard and tasted in real life. In the last 200 years and especially in the last 100, even 50 years, you have gotten super 3-D, technicolor science fiction entering into your mind-set to cloud you to what the Resurrection might really be. So now when we think of the Resurrection, when you think of what life will be after death, we picture it a little like science fiction. Science fiction didn't even exist a short time ago. Imagination existed but it wasn't in technicolor, 3-D and video games to reinforce it like we have now.

The Transfiguration

So what did they believe 200 years ago, a 1,000 years ago? What did they believe 2,000 years ago? They believed something. It wasn't their imaginations. It was what they were *told* and what they *read* in the scriptures. It wasn't unexciting either. Remember the transfiguration on the Mount of Olives. Remember? Think about that. The Old Testament saints have died and are waiting for the Second Coming. But what about the Transfiguration? Who was there? Jesus first. How did that happen? It wasn't really the Resurrection; He was still living in His flesh and blood and yet He was transfigured somehow to a different kind of being in Eternity almost as you might think of it. And yet, Jesus and the disciples, in the Spirit, recognized two other people there. Not energy forms. Not a voice from a science-fiction movie. Not something they didn't recognize at all but it says there was with Him, Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus!

So there they are. Are they waiting for the Second Coming? Yeah they are. Are they waiting for the Resurrection of their bodies? Yes, they are. But were they recognizable in the face of this Transfiguration story? Absolutely. There was something of them that was recognizable. I can only think that it was some kind of human form, not an energy form, not a "voice" from heaven, or even an angel. It was Moses and Elijah, individuals talking with Jesus. I have no idea what they were talking about, but boy, would I like to know! I often thought I'd have liked to listen in on that conversation. I could think that they were probably encouraging Him in what He was about to face, saying, "*Lord, there are tough times ahead for You. We had it rough but it was nothing compared to what You are going to face, especially since You know the beginning from the end.*" Any way Jesus walked down from that place and that's the last we hear from Moses and Elijah maybe until the Second Coming.

Resurrection Belief in the Old Testament

Well, the Old Testament believer knew something of the Resurrection. Isn't that interesting. I always thought Resurrection was a New Testament doctrine in that Jesus is Coming Again. But the Old Testament Jew also believed in the Second Coming concept, except for the Sadducee's as it says in Matthew 22.

²³ *On that day there came to Him Sadducees, they that say that there is no resurrection: and they asked him,*

What? That means there was a sect of the Jewish faith that did not believe in the Resurrection while everybody else did.

²⁴ *saying, Teacher, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.* ²⁵ *Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first married and deceased, and having no seed left his wife unto his brother;* ²⁶ *in like manner the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.* ²⁷ *And after them all, the woman died.* ²⁸ *In the resurrection therefore whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.* ²⁹ *But Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.* ³⁰ *For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as angels in heaven.*

Let's stop there for a minute because there is another concept that we need to talk about and listen to. When Cheryl and I first got married we thought that just couldn't be true. We want to be married forever, not to death do us part, but forever. That's a nice thought but there is going to be change in who you are in this universe in the Resurrection. *It might be better than marriage.* Think about that! We don't have all the answers; we are just trying to see all that the scripture says, not what science-fiction tells you or what your imagination might tell you. Rather, what the scripture says.

Here's another one. You've heard people say that when someone dies they become angels in heaven. That's not true. Angels are a separate creation. We don't become angels or another creation, but He says in this scripture we will be LIKE angels. So how are we to be like angels? They have powers you don't have right now, that's one of them. *"They are like angels of God in heaven."*

³¹ *But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,* ³² *I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*

Where is Jesus going with this statement? It is not about the doctrine or theology. It is about who God is. *God is not the God of the dead but of the living.* He never is the God of the dead! What will be raised up at the Second Coming, out of the ashes that you will have become and the dry bones of your body, will be you. You were never really dead at all!

John 3:16 ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His [a]only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall **not perish, but have eternal life**.”

Eternal life doesn't have gaps of eternity. That's what He is saying. You don't understand the scriptures. God isn't God of the dead but of the living. Did He expect them to understand that? With the Holy Spirit I can just barely grasp it. What an awesome statement. I know what He was saying now. There is no time in which I am going to be in limbo. There is no time in which I am going to be separate from Him.

Remember what God said to John the Baptist? You are going to recognize Jesus because the Spirit is going to come down and stay there for a while and then when He dies and goes to heaven, then hell then heaven again, flitting off and on like a butterfly? **No**. He will **remain** on Him. That same promise is for you when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit; the Spirit comes down upon you. Try to get rid of Him if you want; He will remain with you, never leave you as dead. He is the God of the living not the dead!

It says the multitudes were astonished at His teaching. Just astonished?! How could He say such things; this is crazy talk. This is the truth of the heart and intent and purposes of God. Life not death. Amen.

Lazarus' Resurrection

John 11 ¹⁷ So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. ²¹ Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

See she knows something of the power of God. Her faith was strong regardless of her outward manifestation and personality you may or may not like, she knew how to engage God, her King, her Lord. She knew what He could do. “Whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” Wow.

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Here it is. I thought maybe Jesus was teaching this to her. Now I realize the whole Jewish nation was into this. They were familiar with the concept of resurrected life.

²⁴ Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

This was a firm doctrine amongst the Jewish leaders. You might remind Jewish people you meet now of this doctrine, the next time they think of your

faith. Ask, “*What do you think of the Resurrection? Your brothers and sisters believed in it. What happened to that?*” There are some good scriptures in the Old Testament about the Resurrection.

²⁵ *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, (By the way this word die that He used was ‘Lazarus sleeps.’ So sleep and death are kind of a mixed problem with the language they were using.) even if he dies,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will **never** die.*

Do you believe this?! Resurrected in the Second Coming, yea, we already know this. *No.* He’s not talking about the Second Coming here. He is talking about the life that He has in you, now and forever. We are talking about the Second Coming but also about this life that will never leave you, the Holy Spirit.

²⁷ *She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.”*

Her statement of faith was that she knew that it could happen and He was her life.

The Thief on the Cross

Another scripture of what happens to us after we die is found in Luke 23.

³⁹ *Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.””*

It was a taunt. Not a good attitude to have.

⁴⁰ *But the other thief rebuked him saying, “Do you not even fear God seeing that you are under the same condemnation? We indeed suffer justly for we received due rewards for our deeds but this Man has done nothing wrong.”*

The scene is funny and yet so honest. Where did this wisdom come from? The Holy Spirit.

⁴² *And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your Kingdom!”*

Now the Kingdom will come and will totally, completely be His at the Second Coming. Right now, He is sitting at the right hand of the Father, waiting for the Church to come into her own, step by step, which she surely will. But the thief is saying regarding the Second Coming, “*Remember me.*” Jesus replies that he may not have to wait that long!

⁴³ *And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, **today** (not the Second Coming) you shall be with Me in Paradise.”*

What a slap in the face to the enemy! Thank You, Jesus, for Your commitment to us, Lord God, Your mercy, Your loving-kindness. O, Death, where is your sting now!

Daniel 12 ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

Jesus confirms the Second Coming.

John 5 ²⁴ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. ²⁵ Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; ²⁷ and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

This isn't science-fiction. This is the reality of what will happen at the Second Coming. Those who do not believe in the Lord and are following their own way will reap condemnation of judgment at the Second Coming. Not a place I want to be. I can see the Lord painting a picture of reality in my life. I begin to see there is some real, valid understanding about how I am motivated on a day-to-day basis about the Second Coming. I learn how much God loves me, enough to bring up from the dust of the earth, my bones to have a glorified, immortal body. The Resurrection from the dead is also spoken about in John 5.

²⁴ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

In Isaiah 26.

¹⁹ Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

Billy Graham's Beliefs

Billy Graham has become someone I respect deeply because he believes the Word and the simplicity of the Word, not just in theory but it has to be a workable theory to him. It has to be reality not science-fiction. Not just a theory; it has to be something that is true. People came to Billy Graham and asked him this question over and over again, “*Do you really believe that Jesus Christ is going to come back to this earth again?*” He is a learned man, not ignorant, learned, having had the ear of many presidents and world leaders. Much of the Church relied upon him for answers. They came and asked the “Big One,” one the media tends not to remember of course or thinks that if you believe this, you

are crazy. They think that if you believe in angels and the Second Coming then you must be crazy. Then apparently the world is full of a lot of crazy people!

And so they asked Billy this question and he answered unequivocally, “Yes, I do. *The bible teaches Jesus is coming and I don’t see any other hope but that we are heading for catastrophe in this world.*” Now probably he would have thought that more then than he would now. I see catastrophe *but I also see hope!* I see both. The Word of God speaks of the certainty of the end of the world.

Matthew 24³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

So what were the days of Noah like? Is there a parallel today? Oh yeah. This world is growing increasingly wicked in its understanding of the principles of God. Jesus says the Second Coming is going to be like that; you won’t understand it. A few will but most won’t.

John 14:2-3² . . . for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself (not some crazy place in limbo), that where I am, there you may be also.

Acts 1:9-11⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹ They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

This is God’s promise to you and me. Dale used to say, “*If I know nothing about the Second Coming, I do know there’s going to be at least one cloud.*”

When is it Going to Happen?

Acts 1⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs (not even the angels) which the Father has fixed by His own authority; (Also found in Matthew chapter 24)

On a recent vacation trip, I saw a statue of an angel with a trumpet on her lap, by the look on her face waiting somewhat impatiently. The angel doesn’t know when to blow that trumpet, only when she’s instructed to do so by the Father. They don’t know when that hour is coming either. But they do know it is coming! And so do you!

*1 Thessalonians 4¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven **with a shout**, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and*

the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

That's what Billy Graham believed and I believe it also. That's what scripture says. Notice Billy goes right to the scripture, right to the Word of God. They asked him another question, "*Do you think we are going to heaven the instant we die or do we sleep or something like that until Christ comes again and then we are awakened?*" We had a discussion in a bible study recently. I was surprised to find out that there are many different opinions out there. But Billy answered emphatically, "*Yes, immediately to heaven.*" Christians can focus on minor matters rather than the major one; we are going to be saved and have eternal life. Nobody disagrees with that but they differ on how that works out. A lot of it because they don't know the Word of God the way they should.

Of the divinity of Christ we have no doubt. His death and the cross for our salvation, His Resurrection from the dead and our hope of heaven to come. Billy says, "*I am convinced that when we die we immediately enter the presence of the Lord. At some future time after that we will be given new bodies similar to the body that Jesus had after His Resurrection to a glorified body. But in the meantime our souls are with the Lord and we are fully conscious of being in His presence.*" So that's why Billy can say what he said before he died, "*Someday you will hear people say that Billy Graham was dead. Don't you believe it, I've just changed my address.*" That's what he said! Because he believes it. So do I. We are certainly confident and prefer to be away from our body and to be at home with the Lord (Paul says in 2 Corinthians). Elsewhere Paul says, "*I desire to depart and be with Christ which is better by far* (Philippians 4:23). So Paul was a believer in this concept too. When he dies will he go to purgatory or limbo? No, he is going into the presence of the Lord and it is better for him to be there than in the situation that he is in here on earth. Fortunately the Lord had him here on earth and kept him there to accomplish His work.

Good Works for Us to Do

You see, God has good works for you to do here on this earth! Let me tell you what you should expect from life here. This Bible is your "Users' Manual."

We repent for our evil nature and our rebellion against God. That's our entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven, when we are born-again and we receive His forgiveness. We are a new creature in Christ; we are born-again! Everyone in this room. We enter His Kingdom through the water of Baptism. Everyone here. We are **filled** with the Spirit of God. We are linked to our brothers and sisters in Christ, the body of Christ. Don't try to walk it out alone! It is a hard row to hoe all by yourself.

Then what? Just heaven; we're here now, just worship the Lord every Sunday . . . No. He prepared for us *good works for us even from the beginning*, even before the beginning. He has prepared works for us to do which even in-

cludes entertaining angels even though we may not realize we are. Or we can stop and reach our hand out just in friendship.

On the way to Church this morning, I noticed a man on Sawkill Road. We were going North and he was headed South. When I first saw him he was sitting on a rock with his head in his hands looking down. Just sitting there. I thought that this couldn't be good. And so, I thought he wasn't just there resting, he was in trouble. I turned the car around and went back and he had gotten up and started walking South. I asked him as he turned his head to see why I was stopping, "*Are you all right?*" He said he was but the look on his face said he wasn't. We began to pray for him. Isn't that what good works are about? Even more than that.

It is the beginning of good work when you can have compassion for those who are suffering. I realize there was almost nothing I could do for him or that he wanted me to do for him at that moment. But, a door could be opened for him to receive another word that could rescue him maybe even for eternity. The look on his face was one of despair. How many people at the Mall have you seen with that same look? Or Walmart, wherever you may go. The look on their face even without asking is one of despair. So, God has created for you good works to walk in even if the only good you do is to encourage others, that's good. Your smile can be infectious. The Lord in you is waiting for them, to bring them life, to see the life that you have.

Conformed to His Image

Another thing that you have after all this repentance stuff and being in the Church, is that we are being conformed into His image, by the dealings of God, being conformed into the image of Christ. Not into the image that you think you're supposed to be. God's painting this picture of reality for you every day. It becomes clearer and clearer who you are supposed to be as you walk with the Lord and with your brothers and sisters. That is why we need each other.

Then What Happens When We Die?

We've just lived our life and now we're going to be with the Lord. Our physical body gives up the ghost, literally. The soul and the spirit within me doesn't stay with this flesh, doesn't hang out there. We see crosses put up by people along the side of the road because some people believe that in the place where you die there is still a remnant of you. Go back in history, this only is found in certain cults in the Middle East that believe such nonsense! This is where the car hit the telephone pole; Mom is still there somehow. Her spirit will come back to where she died! No. How tragic a belief and understanding of who people are! When you die you are not going to be here in these bones and flesh! Your spirit is going to be face to face with the Lord in the presence of God! Not in limbo, hanging out for thousands of years! Or even for a second. You will be with the Lord knowing the presence of God. That's what the scriptures are preaching. And in the Second Coming, these bones and the dust that remains,

wherever they may find them, are going to come together miraculously into a living form! You will be resurrected from the dead as a body and your glorified body will come down from heaven and rejoin with it. Not science-fiction, this is scripture. Not your imagination, scripture.

The Second Coming of Christ is what we are going to be looking forward to. Again I say, “*Why do I care about this flesh?*” It will be dust like any other dust in the heavens. Yes but as He gave birth to us, He wants us to know that it is Him who gave birth to us as a *human being*. You will never be departed from the process of being a human forever in eternity. You will know that you are a human being created by God because your form will be so glorified and awesome. That should make you real happy! That’s not just something that’s going to happen later on. That’s to make you happy now. Now I look at creation and say, “*Wow, I have something to give that these people don’t even understand. The animals don’t have a clue on how to understand.*” The dog, cat, fish in the aquarium, they never will. You have it, the Holy Spirit within you is going to rise up.

What’s in Store?

Then what? Now this gets complicated. First thing that comes to my mind, scripture says we are going to judge the angels. Are you ready to do that? We cannot even pick out a judge for Supreme Court just now. But we are going to judge angels! Wow. Don’t put yourself down. This is one thing waiting for me, I’m not sure I’m up to it, but God will prepare me. And too, at some point in the end we are not only before the face of God, but we are going to be *One* with Him and the Father for an eternity. We cannot even imagine this. That’s what it says in Revelations, He will create all things new. He will not desert you for even a moment in that process. You will be new. He will never leave you for dead.

Now, what about the Church? What has the Church believed through the ages? Not what it believes now, not the real Church but the Protestant and Catholic organizations. So I went to the Wesminster Catechism. It is kind of interesting, it says some really nice stuff. Back in those days when it was originally written they were trying to understand, doctrinally, every single doctrine to be absolute. They got some things wrong, but to be honest, they got some things right. What does it have to say about the Resurrection?

Wesminster Catechism, chapter 32, paragraph “I” : *The bodies of men are destined to return to dust and see corruption (they are in touch with reality). But, their souls which neither die nor sleep (if you go there you will find out which scriptures they are referring to), having an immortal substance immediately return to God who gave them the souls of the righteous being then made perfect of holiness, are received in the highest heavens where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies.*

There is a reason they used all those words just the way they were written, as catechisms are really into making sure all the words are just right. They are saying you become perfect because a lot of who you are is not perfect when you die. We are washed by the blood of the lamb and at that point when you go before the face of God, you don't have to worry about that any more. You are totally and completely in Christ, you have become holy. There is no intermediate purgatory or limbo. That was a big thing back then with the Catholic Catechism. They would not believe in that immediate perfection. They believed that you still have all these sins with you carrying them into the second world, so your relatives then had to buy you indulgence or penance for you and donate money in Church for you so you could go up to the next rung! There wasn't the highest level of heaven in this Catholic belief; there was the lowest level of heaven, then there were intermediate steps and if you had enough money donated for you, you could make it to the highest level. So why did they believe that? Westminster said that was totally crazy, not the heart of God at all. ***The heart of God is that He loves you and wants you with Him!*** He is going to take care of all the sin and you won't have to worry about that anymore. You will become holy. But, they also believed that the souls of the wicked are cast into Hell where they remain in the torments of outer darkness (there are other scriptures to prove that) reserved for the judgment in the Great Day, reserved for the judgment of the Second Coming.

Besides these two places, Heaven or Hell, when the soul separates from its body, the scriptures acknowledge none. There is no other place. Some might say there is a special place for scientists. No, neither politicians, etc. But scripture is clear there are only two places, in the presence of God or not. There are those who are not waiting for the Second Coming. Eternal judgment will be upon them.

1 Corinthians 15⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, (the Second Coming) . . .

Again the word sleep. That's where some people get the idea that we sleep, but Jesus said no. We come before the face of God, Catechism says that, Billy Graham says that, we say that. You may not believe it but if I'm wrong, oh well..

. . . for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory."⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The victory is now and the victory is then. At last, the very last the seventh angel blew his trumpet and there were mighty voices in heaven shouting: the dominion (that is the Kingdom and the Sovereignty of Almighty God) of the world has now come into possession and become the Kingdom of our Lord, the Christ, the Messiah, and He shall reign forever and ever for eternities to eternities. And it is that Resurrection that Second Coming that is so encouraging to me. It is at that place. I will be there standing in my glorified body that will have pain no longer. And I will not have a tear in my eye. There will be no issues that will be before me that will encumber me from seeing my God face to face. And the strength of His Kingdom will be there! Now, I am happy. I can see more of the picture of reality before me because of the Second Coming. I can see more of the intent and the purposes of God because of the Second Coming. He is not going to make you into some different life form; He is going to make you into who you are with a glorified body.

*Amen. Let's Pray: Thank You, Lord Jesus, for the Word which saves us. You are the Word. You come today to paint the picture a little clearer of what it is going to be like after we are gone from earth. And, what it is going to be like when You come again. What a day indeed it will be and there is no uncertainty of its happening. It will happen. It is not somehow going to come when it doesn't matter any more. It will come when it matters the most! So we stand as a Church prepared to do the good works that You have prepared for us to do. We will smile in the face of despair and grief, reaching out to a brother or sister that You're calling to them with a voice from heaven. We ask You, Lord, to give us the power of the Holy Spirit to break through the walls the enemy has built around them so that they cannot hear any more. The miracle of the Second Coming. They cannot hear any more of the miracle of eternal life and the life and the purposes of God in their life now that is so wonderful, one that is there for us. And we thank You, Lord God, for redeeming and saving us today in Your grace and mercy for the obedience that Brad was talking about earlier (Obedience is better than Sacrifice). For the glory that our sister was sharing with us. That we would know You face to face. **What a wonderful time it shall be.***

Amen and amen.

Confirming Prophetic Word just before teaching.

July 15, 2018 Solomon's Temple, Claudia Scott

I would have you stop and consider the marvelous work I am doing, building something greater than anything you could ever imagine or think. I would have you consider Solomon's temple and how I use symbols and shadow types in My Word, a temple greater than anything that had ever been built and nothing built since can compare, even right up to this day. Everything was cov-

ered in gold. Many skilled craftsmen and artisan worked their skills into its design and furnishings. King David had been given the *plans by the Lord* and he wrote them all carefully down to be accomplished by his son, Solomon. Much, much gold. Silver was so common that it was like stones on the ground. Its fame went out throughout all the nations and is still talked about today.

So why was it built? Why was it built like that? Why was it built, My people? What is it a type of? It was not just for the forgiveness of sins, though it was for that. Was it just that life would be easier if you looked to the House of the Lord for mercy? Not just for the forgiveness of sins. Not just for mercy! ***But built for the Glory of God!*** At its consecration the Glory of God came down as a great cloud and filled the temple so that none could enter in.

Just so I am building a Church to house the glory of God. What is the difference between the Old and the New? But that the Holy Spirit ***of God*** has come ***into you*** (not a building). So why live down there in the old of just forgiveness and mercy alone? I want you to rise up. I want you to realize how great the work I am doing in *you*. You will be great! It is not just receiving the forgiveness of sins. It's not just mercy. It is My Glory! You are the Sons of God! ***God*** is living in you! You are My Church! I have much, much, much bigger things in store for you. And just as Solomon's temple was greater than anything on this earth, just so, the House that I am building this day will be so great and so powerful and such a vehicle filled with the Glory of My Father! I want you to realize that and *rise up and be* more than you are. . . more than you think you can be. I want you to realize you can be ***all*** that ***I*** have for you!