

## JCI #151 THAT DAY August 2014

### **LIVE THIS DAY IN THE LIGHT OF THAT DAY**

The gospel of Jesus Christ as preached and taught by the apostles recorded in the Book of Acts and the New Testament letters focuses on three key events...

- 1) Christ's death - His redeeming death as our sacrifice for sin on the cross
- 2) Christ's resurrection - His victory over death and the grace in His resurrection that proves the validity of the promises of everlasting life and Christ as Savior and Lord
- 3) Christ's return - the theme of the return of Christ is found everywhere in the New Testament. It was the first thing the angels reminded the apostles of as Christ ascended! Acts 1:11 ... "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Living in the light of the cross removes our guilt and fills us with the peace of reconciliation. Living in the light of the empty tomb removes our dread and fills us with the confidence of immortality.

Living in the light of Christ's return removes our frustrations and fills us with the hope of seeing him face to face.

This JCI is calling us to focus on that final and glorious day of Christ's return. It is frequently referred to as "that day."

**"That Day"** is an Unknown but Anticipated Day for the **Disciple**

Mt 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

That day is unknowable by man, yet definite in the plan of God. It is for good reasons that the Father has kept the day a secret. But we are everywhere called to be prepared for it. It is the unknown nature of the timing that calls us to continual preparation.

**"That Day"** is a Feast Fulfilling Day for the **Citizen of the Kingdom**

Mt 26:29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

As Jesus prepared His disciples for His imminent death and return to heaven, He established a memorial feast for the New Covenant. And with the establishment of what we now call "The Lord's Table" or "Communion" He included instruction regarding His return and the beginning of His Father's Kingdom. It is with this same reality in mind that the Apostle Paul in 1 Cor. 11:26 ends his instructions on the Lord's Table with the words "as often as you eat this

bread and drink this cup you show forth the Lord's death *until He comes.*" Just think, the next time you celebrate the Lord's Supper may be the last time until we eat of it face to face with our Lord. "Until that day..."

### **"That Day" is a day of Glory for the Saint**

2Th 1:10 when He comes, in *that day*, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Although the return of Christ will bring great suffering for the sinner without Christ, it will bring the greatest of joys to the saint who is forgiven in Christ. That day is the believer's dream come true and the unsaved sinner's worst nightmare realized. That day will result in our eyes beholding, our hearts transfixing, our knees bending, our hands rising, our voices lifting and our joys surpassing all that earth could ever bring.

### **"That Day" is a day of Accountability for the Steward**

2Ti 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until *that day*.

That day is a day of accountability as we give an account to our Lord for the use of our time, gifts, opportunities, and responsibilities. It is a sobering reality that we will all give an individual account to God on that day. 2 Cor 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." 1 Cor 3:1-11 teaches the same in the metaphor of a refining fire. That day is a day of individual responsibility and accountability.

### **"That Day" is a day of Reward for the Servant**

2Ti 1:18 The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in *that day*--and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus.

That day is a day of reward for the faithful steward of God's resources. We know precious little about the brother Onesiphorus. But what we do know reminds us that "that day" will bring rewards to the faithful servant who serves in silent and unnoticed ways bringing blessing to God's people. That day is a day of revelation and reward.

### **"That Day" is a day of Crowning for the Victor**

2Ti 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on *that day*, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

That day will be a day of final victory. Not only will we be raised, robed in glory, and rewarded for faithful service, but we will be crowned with victory as we reign in life with Him. Nothing will overcome us ever again. We will never be overcome by sin, or sorrow, or

deception, or persecution, discouragement, or weakness, or illness, or death. That day is a day of victorious crowning for all believers for all time.

Martin Luther was quoted as saying: "I have but two days on my calendar: Today, and That Day." We cannot live *"this day"* well unless we live it in the light of *"that day"*

### **Self-Check**

- 1) When was the last time that the reality of Christ's return shaped a decision you made?
- 2) How often does the reality of Christ's return lift your burdens and correct your thinking?
- 3) If Christ were to come tonight, are you ready? If not, why not? What needs to change?

### **For Further Study**

Read the book of 1 Thessalonians and the Preaching of Peter and Paul in Acts and write down the key realities that are seen regarding Christ's return.

1 Thess 1

1 Thess 2

1 Thess 3

1 Thess 4

1 Thess 5

Acts 2

Acts 3

*"O Christ, You were crucified to redeem me, raised to justify me, and You are returning to glorify me. Give me grace to day to live always in the light of Your return. May every day be lived in the light of that day. May my motives, my decisions, my actions and reactions be guided in the light of that day. Free my heart from this world that I may live this day so that when that day comes, You will be pleased and I will not be ashamed. Even so come, Lord Jesus. Amen."*

**Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.**

**Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4**

**Ron & Val**

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,  
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible  
with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,  
spending our time on eternity,  
owning nothing yet possessing everything  
that matters and lasts.  
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.  
Welcome to THE JOURNEY