

**“CHRIST’S RETURN”****Introduction**

1. How can Christians suffer so much?
2. It is because they have Hope.
3. None have such hope as we do.

**1. THE SECOND COMING WILL BRING BELIEVERS HOME**

- 1) v.13: Doctrine is essential: in this case in reference to BELIEVERS after their death.  
**OBSERVE:** Their death is termed a “sleep”. Explain.
- 2) v.13: Unbelievers have “no hope” – but the Lord’s people have this hope.  
**OBSERVE:** Our grieving is softened by this fact.
- 3) This hopelessness is well-known:  
Shirley: “Death lays his icy hand on Kings”.  
Gray: “The paths of glory lead but to the grave”.  
The ideas of “Fate / the End / It’s all over / No more.”  
**APPLICATION:** Let us be thankful for the gospel’s hope!
- 4) v.14: Christ is our Hope in death, as in life. The wonderful fact of Christ’s resurrection.  
**APPLICATION:** O what a hope it gives us!
- 5) v.15: Christians who live at the time of the Second Coming will have no advantage over those who are dead.
- 6) v.16:17: The wonderful events of the Second Coming, living and dead.
- 7) v.18: Forever with the Lord!  
**APPLICATION:** What a comfort! Let us drink in these words!

**2. THE SECOND COMING SHOULD DRAMATICALLY AFFECT BELIEVERS**

- 1) The way this Doctrine affects unbelievers and should be a warning to them:
  - (i) v.2: its suddenness:  
**ILLUSTRATION:** “thief in the night”
  - (ii) v.3: the unbelievers will be unprepared  
They say, “Peace and safety.”
  - (iii) v.3: destruction will strike  
**ILLUSTRATION:** a woman’s birth-pangs
  - (iv) v.3: no way to escape  
This shown in Rev. 6 in detail.  
**APPLICATION:** Are you an unbeliever? Do you not want to escape? Do you not know how?
- 2) The way in which believers ought to live:
  - (i) v.4: we are not “in darkness”:
  - (ii) v.5: but in the light
  - (iii) v.6-8: we must live differently
  - (iv) v.8: we need gospel armour on
  - (v) v.9-10: all our hope we owe to God’s grace and Christ’s work.
  - (vi) v.11: so we must help one another to be faithful

**CONCLUSION**

“Forever with the Lord.”  
Is this YOUR hope?

<p>PSALM</p>
<p>50<sup>1</sup>: 1 – 6</p>
<p>96: 9 – 13</p>
<p>98: 4 - 9</p>