

## CHRIST IS COMING FOR A VICTORIOUS CHURCH

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*There are many things which seem to indicate that Christ is coming for a defeated Church, and there are others who are taking a wrong path to a false victory, but the Lord has a faith way for His people to go which is in line with the promises and prophecies of Scripture, namely, that Christ is coming for a victorious Church.*

The Apostle Peter wrote an epistle to “stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour”. (2 Peter 3:1, 2). They needed to remember the Word because, “there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.” (2 Peter 3:3b, 4).

This may be a great question. Christians may think that Christ is taking a long time before returning. It seems that there are more wars, disasters and other troubles continually day by day, and yet, the Church only goes down, suffers, and things seem to get worse.

Some have said that the return of Christ to take away the Church must be at any moment now.

Consider this: the Church has dwindled, the Gospel has had less impact, and the believers have had less victory now in the nation than ever... or so it would seem. What kind of glory is Christ getting from this situation? Is God so weak that His Church must be a surviving handful which must be plucked out of the very jaws of Antichrist? Many Christians have been deceived by thinking that God is not really in control, that the power of Antichrist is a real threat and that the world is filled with random chaos.

Some have reacted against this defeatist thinking, and have gone as far as preparing to take over the world by politics or force in the name of Christ. And then there have been those deceivers who hope to do the same thing, except they pretend to be “in the spirit”, and they claim to be preparing to combat (among other things) sincere and religious minded Christians who are apparently control by evil spirits. Such people have made themselves enemies of God, and they cannot stand. Christians should not be shaken by such threats. “Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, *even* them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.” (Isaiah 41:12).

Peter preached about the circumstances in which Christ would return, saying, “when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you” (Acts 3:19b, 20). Times of refreshing are not times of defeat, but times of the impartation of knowledge. Isaiah shows this, “To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this *is* the refreshing ... For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.” (Isaiah 28:12a, 10,

11).

Christians must have an expectancy that good things are to happen. “The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision.” (Ezekiel 12:23b). Someone may wonder how the Gospel is going to go forward or Church grow. It is not humanly possible to accomplish even a little of the prophecies concerning the great work that God would do, “Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:30, 31). “But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.” (2 Thessalonians 3:13).