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Section: Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q66. Where is Jesus now?**

Jesus is alive, and His body is exalted in heaven, where He is preparing a place for His redeemed people and interceding for them in the presence of God the Father.

**Q67. When will Jesus return?**

Jesus will physically return according to the will of God. Until then, we are commanded to be faithful servants and wise stewards. Come, Lord Jesus!

* **At This Time, Jesus Is Exalted in Heaven**

**Acts 1:7-11** [Jesus said to His Apostles], “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” **9**And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10**And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, **11**and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

* **We have a living King**

His body is exalted in heaven.

His ***body*** is **not** omnipresent

Jesus, **in His divine nature**, is spirit, and sovereign, and omnipresent, and omniscient, and omnipotent, and all-wise, etc.

In this uniqueness of His two natures, we can see how ***bodily*** Jesus is in heaven, and ***He, as spirit****,* is everywhere.

**Romans 8:9** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Paul says in verse 10 that “Christ is in you” if you are saved.

**Matthew 28:20** “… I am with you always ...”

* **Two of His primary functions in heaven**

His body is exalted in heaven *where He is preparing a place for His redeemed people and interceding for them in the presence of God the Father*.

**John 14:2-3** “In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

**Colossians 3:1** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

**Romans 8:34** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

**1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. *But* if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

We should be repenting and fighting sin diligently, but when we sin, Jesus stands as the One worthy to justify us because *of His person and work*.

Christ intercedes for us; believers won’t be lost in this life or found condemned in judgement, *since* Jesus paid our debt in full and has credited us with His perfect record!

*Take comfort in this, believer.* Jesus is assuring you acceptance and safety with God, rather than you getting the separation and wrath you deserve.

**Q67. When will Jesus return?**

Jesus will physically return according to the will of God. Until then, we are commanded to be faithful servants and wise stewards. Come, Lord Jesus!

* **Jesus Will Physically Return**

**Luke 24:39** “See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones *as you see that I have*.”

Jesus will *physically return* in that *same, now-glorified body*.

* **According to the will of God**

God has a pre-ordained plan. God has set a time. God knows. And He hasn’t and won’t reveal this date to us.

Fallen man has tendencies to be sinfully short sided. We think in terms of our circumstances. And this feeds the temptation for people to assume they are in the “end times.”

*Christian, our Lord has said no one knows the time, and He has called us to be diligent in focused worship of and service for Him*. We cannot get caught up in the guessing game, or the sinful anxiety, or whatever else it causes in various people.

* **Passages that specifically discuss the return of Christ**

**Matthew 24:36** “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”

**Matthew 24:37-39 “**For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **38**For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, **39**and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”

King Jesus says *just like* in the time of the flood, humanity will be going about normal everyday things. The days will seem normal; there will not be any signs to make us aware of it before it happens.

* **We are commanded to be faithful servants and wise stewards.**

**Matthew 24:42-51 “**Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. **43**But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. **44**Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. **45**“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? **46**Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. **47**Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. **48**But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ **49**and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, **50**the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know **51**and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This section intertwines didactic statements and symbolic language, as Jesus often does. The talk about the thief in the night is to teach us that we cannot and will not know when Jesus will return until it happens, so be ready and alert. The talk about the servants is to teach us to be diligent in good works: stewardship and obedience.

**Mark 13:32-37** “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33**Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. **34**It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. **35**Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— **36**lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. **37**And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

God is not commanding us to literally not sleep. It means *stay alert, be ready, and be diligent in good works: stewardship and obedience.*

His statement here about Him not knowing the time is Him speaking from *the perspective of His human nature*. *The point He is making is only God knows*—not any man, not even angels.

**Acts 1:7** [Jesus] said to them [His followers], “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. **2**For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3**While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **4**But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. **5**For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. **6**So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. **7**For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. **8**But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9**For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10**who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. **11**Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

We see the same things we saw in Christ’s teaching.

Paul finishes this portion by calling believers to thrive within Christian community; he says to “encourage one another and build one another up.”

**2 Peter 3:10** … the day of the Lord will come like a thief …

Scripture cannot and does not contradict itself. Its author is God, who does not err. When Scripture appears to be in contradiction with itself, the problem lies in the reader and his or her lack of understanding, not God’s inerrant, infallible, truthful, complete word.

* **Application**

We are commanded to be faithful servants and wise stewards. Come, Lord Jesus!

**2 Peter 3:11-18** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12**waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13**But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. **14**Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. **15**And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, **16**as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. **17**You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. **18**But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

**Philippians 4:8** … whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**Matthew 25:31-34, 46** “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. **32**Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33**And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. **34**Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **46**And these [on the left: the goats] will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous [on the right: the sheep] into eternal life.”

**Hebrews 9:28** [Jesus] will appear a second time, not to deal with sin [meaning not to die on a cross again] but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

* Know and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.
* Know Jesus will return bodily.
* Know God has a perfect and wise plan for this.
* Stay diligent in the commands from God.
* Do not be anxious about anything.
* Look forward with anticipation and excitement to the return of Jesus.