

Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS



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WHICH ONE IS IT?

Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery | July 10, 2013

Often in our church talk we use expressions that seem right, sound right and feel right. But is it right? I had an enlightening conversation with another born again Christian about the comment often made in certain circles that 'Jesus is coming soon'. The person had an issue with the statement as the word 'soon' indicated a short time. The dictionary defines the word soon to mean 'in the near future.' And many believers actually believe the Lord will return in their lifetime in the very near future. Their belief is based on the increased level of moral deterioration in our society and the fact scripture seems to describe the tone of this day. The truth is there is no scripture that speaks to the concept of how soon or not so soon the Lord returns. In fact we are told specifically that no one knows the time or the hour the Son of Man will return. Furthermore, because it has not occurred the scripture further admonishes not to count the Lord as slack concerning His promise since it has not happened yet. What the scripture does tell us is to be ready, to live circumspectly, and to anticipate His coming. It teaches us to remain faithful to God and states in Luke 18:8, "...However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [persistence in] faith on the earth?"



Perhaps our desire for Him to come soon prompts our comment seeing as there isn't any scripture to support using the word 'soon.' I've said it and in truth, my real reason behind it is circumstance driven. Most often I'm a bit weary with the pressures of life and want it to stop. We might not want to admit it, but our world is complicated and it challenges our faith in Him many times. So the question that comes to mind is, which one is it? Is He coming soon or Should I be ready? To remain biblically accurate I must state that Luke 12:40 says, "Be ye also ready; for in an hour that ye think not the Son of man cometh." It is understood these New Testament passages are directed to the Jews, yet it has spiritual application for us in terms of the parousia (the rapture). It is misleading to tell someone Jesus is coming soon since we are basing the 'near future' on end times that have been evolving since the beginning of the New Testament church. An unbeliever may feel you are trying to coerce them to accept Jesus through a scare tactic. Yes, His coming is sooner today than it was yesterday and even sooner a minute ago than the last minute. Nonetheless, we don't know when He's coming so perhaps we should speak in biblically correct terms and encourage one another to 'be ready' and remain faithful to God until He comes.

You think about it and decide, "Which one is it?"

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