

# The Return of Christ

by Charles E. Fuller

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*The sermon emphasizes the hope of the believer in the return of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, and the reunion of believers in heaven.*

**Duration:** 51:21

**Scripture:** Matthew 24:37-39, Matthew 27:51, Luke 16:19, 1 Corinthians 15:14-15, 1 Corinthians 15:51, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-8

**Topics:** "Second Coming Of Christ"

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## Description

The video is a broadcast of the Gospel with Dr. Charles E. Ford, presented by Christian Heritage Ministry and Cooperation with Four Seminary. The sermon emphasizes the importance of worshiping and adoring God, and the need to pray with all our power while preaching the word. The speaker also mentions the concept of going home to the land, where there is safety and where the soil hides the road. The sermon touches on the idea of following the steps of Jesus and the belief that this world is not our home, but rather our treasures are laid out beyond the blue. The speaker also addresses the question of whether the soul sleeps between death and resurrection, and invites listeners to tune in for future sermons on this topic.

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## Transcript

We have heard the joyful sound, Jesus saves, Jesus saves. When the timing's all around, Jesus saves, Jesus saves. Christian Heritage Ministry, in cooperation with Ford Seminary, proudly presents the Old-Fashioned Revival Arc, a broadcast of the Gospel with Dr. Charles E. Fuller.

Jesus saves, Jesus saves. Will your anchor hold in the storms of life, When the clouds unfold their wings of sky? When the strong tides lift and the cables sway, Will your anchor grip or firm remain? We have an anchor that keeps us all Steadfast and sure while the billows roll. Is it safely moored, will the storm withstand, Or just well secured by the sea? We have an anchor that keeps us all Steadfast and sure while the billows roll.

When we have met to worship And adore the Lord our God, Will you pray with all your power While we try to preach the word? All is vain unless the spirit Of the Holy One comes down. Brethren, pray and holy manna Will be showered all around. Let us love our God supremely, Let us love each other too.

Let us love and pray for sinners Till our God makes all things new. Then he'll call us home to heaven, At his table we'll sit down. Brethren, pray and holy manna Will be showered all around.

That's an old, old number called Holy Manna, just sung by the Old-Fashioned Revival Hour Quartet. Take your song sheets and turn to number one and stand and sing this song of the Believer's Hope, Meet Me There. Come on, stand up, every one of you.

Sing the first and second verses on the happy golden shore where the faithful part no more. On the happy golden shore where the faithful part no more, there's a good, quiet, warm meet me there where the life is all the way into pure and perfect day. I am going home to stay, meet me there, meet me there, meet me there, where the life is all the way, meet me there, where the stars will light up all the night and the roses will bloom for me and the earth will shake for me and the waves shall be gentle on the way, meet me there.

I am going home to stay, meet me there, meet me there, meet me there, where the stars will light up all the night. As you sing it, turn around, shake hands with as many as possible. Come on, sing it out, right out into the microphones and the radios all over the land.

Come on. Turn right around, shake hands. There it is.

There it is. My, it's such a happy crowd. Now sing it this way and a little faster, come on, heavenly.

Sing it right into the microphone. There it is. I believe on the cold dark mountain seeking his sheep.

I'm going to sing, This World Is Not My Home. If they lead through the temple holy, preaching the word, far in homes of This world is not my home. I'm just a passing crew.

My treasures are laid low. I have no friend like you. They're all expecting me and that's one thing I know.

I fixed it up with Jesus many years ago. I know he'll take me through, though I am weak and poor and I can't feel at home in this world anymore. Oh Lord, I have no friend like you.

Just over in glory land we'll live eternally. The saints on every hand are shouting victory. Their songs of sweetest praise rip back from heaven's shore and I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

Oh Lord, I have no friend like you. If heaven's not my home, then Lord what will I do? The angels beckon me from heaven's open door and I can't feel at home in this world anymore. Oh Lord, I have no friend like you.

If heaven's not my home, then Lord what will I do? The angels beckon me from heaven's open door and I can't feel at home in this world anymore. I've a longing in my heart I've a longing to see His face Oh, so weary and trembling Here below, I believe. Oh, so weary and trembling I've a longing in my heart I've a longing in my heart to see His face.

I am weary Oh, so weary of traveling here below. I've a longing in my heart for Him. I've a longing in my heart And now, honey, with the letters go right ahead.

Mrs. Fuller. Greetings, friends, from California. Dear Dr. Fuller, two days ago we buried our precious little two-year-old daughter in Fresno.

The enclosed check is the tithe of her savings account. We never tithed on it before as we wanted to teach her to tithe on her own. We do not know why God took this ray of sunshine out of our lives, but we still have faith believing that all things work together for good.

Her favorite song was Heavenly Sunshine, and it was played at her funeral service. May this little gift from our little daughter be used to send heavenly sunshine out over the world. Friends, let us pray that the God of all comfort may sustain in a most unusual way these dear children of His who have been so yielded to His will.

From a serviceman in the Philippines, dear Reverend Fuller, while tuning in on the receivers and transmitters here at the Army Air Force radio station tonight, how surprised and delighted I was to pick up the familiar voices of the Fuller Hour. I used to listen regularly in the States and feast on your messages and revel in the fine music. It was a great treat to me to hear this favorite program again, for it has been one of the things that I have missed most since leaving the States.

I enjoyed every song and every word of the sermon, and it brought back memories of home. I had to ask a buddy to take a message on one of the receivers so that I might not have to miss one second of the program. I think people far away from home enjoy it more than anyone else.

From Arkansas, dear Brother Fuller, some months ago I wrote and asked prayers for my husband, and I want you to know that they were answered. My husband died in April, but thank God he was saved seven months before God called him home. Your program was the only one that he would listen to, and as we all prayed, you preached, and the Holy Spirit drew him to God.

It was so hard to give him up, but it was a wonderful thing after hours of prayer to be completely and wholly submissive to God and be able to say, not my will, but thine, be done. I loved my husband so much that I know now what scripture means when it says, My grace is sufficient for you. This last letter is from Philadelphia.

Dear Reverend Fuller, you will never know how thrilled I was to hear your voice come over the radio while riding on a train going from the West Coast to the East Coast on Sunday, August the 31st. That train is called the Empire Builder, and as we were nearing Chicago some jazz was blaring out on the radio. When it went off, I was so surprised to hear your program come on.

I sat and held my breath for a moment for fear that they would turn the radio off or change the program. But instead, people settled down in their seats and all became still and everybody seemed to enjoy it. The little boy sitting next to me was humming the hymns that were sung, and I bowed my head and prayed that the program might be a blessing and remain on.

It did, for all but about six minutes when we were nearing Union Station and people were getting ready to get off. My prayer is that people may often have the privilege of hearing you on the Empire Builder as I did. And that is all I shall have time for today, friends.

They tried my lord They tried my lord and master With no one to With no one to defend Within the halls  
Within the halls of my lord He stood without He stood without a friend I'll be a friend I'll be a friend to Jesus  
My life for him My life for him I'll spend I'll be a friend I'll be a friend to Jesus Until my years Until my years  
shall end To all who need To all who need a savior My friend I rec My friend I recommend Because he  
brought Because he brought salvation is why I am is why I am his friend I'll be a friend I'll be a friend to  
Jesus My life for him My life for him I'll spend I'll be a friend I'll be a friend to Jesus Until my years Until my  
years shall end I'll be a friend I'll be a friend to Jesus My life for him My life for him I'll spend Until my years  
Until my years shall end

May we stand and sing one verse number 36 He leadeth me, O blessed thought Let's stand up and sing out just before the message of the hour He leadeth me, O blessed thought O blessed me Because my Father was there with me where'er I be Killed his own son that he did not see He leadeth me, He leadeth me By his own hand he gave me His faithful follower I would be For by his hand he gave me May every head be bowed and every eye closed, please We'd love to pray with the millions listening in those that are on praying grounds Heavenly Father we realize more and more as we see the foreshadows of the day of the Lord events coming to pass that we believe unmistakably tells us that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh Oh, how we thank thee in these days of chaos and confusion and world unrest that

we've been hidden away in the rock of ages in the wounded side of Christ safe for time and eternity We thank thee for the assurance of salvation and for the safety and security of salvation We feel sorry, Heavenly Father for those that have no assurance We know that we've passed from death unto life We thank thee for it And now as the message goes out in a few moments May hearts be turned to the Lamb of God and we'll give thee all the glory for we ask it in Christ's name Amen Oh, my loving sister When the fire's on fire Don't you walk on Oh, my loving Walk on this land for me There's a sweet by and by For the Christian There's a home for the soul With the Lord When the journey on earth Shall have ended There's a place In the kingdom of God In the land beyond the river Where the saints

Shall never die In the holy bright forever Is the Christian's by and by There's a sweet by and by For the Christian There's a land that is fairer Than day There are pleasures Eternal in heaven When the pleasures of sin Pass away In the land beyond the river Where the saints Shall never die In the holy bright forever Is the Christian's by and by And now with your Bibles open on the old-fashioned revival hour to the fourth chapter of 1 Thessalonians may we just sit at the Lord's feet and like Mary of old drink in what he has for us I'll read from the 13th to the 18th verses But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep that ye sorrow not even as others which have no hope for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again even so them also which sleep in

Jesus will God bring with him for this we say unto you by the word of the Lord that we which are alive and remain under the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep for the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall arise first then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord wherefore comfort one another with these words In the first part of this fourth chapter of 1 Thessalonians the apostle Paul writes on the general subject of brotherly love the living of a life as a believer that he should live his life in quietness not in reveling not in rioting not in drunkenness that

a believer ought to walk to please God warning the believer especially in verses 1 to 8 against the committing of two cardinal sins and it's very interesting to note that this is mentioned right in connection with the Lord's return as it was in the days of Noah so shall it also be in the days of the Son of Man I believe is the hint the two cardinal sins are spoken of there in verses 1 to 8 as follows uncleanness that is, one should keep himself morally clean and second, covetousness or greediness and then in verses 9 to 12 Paul exhorts the believer not to be restless fussy meddling in the affairs of others not to be idle what was the reason? simply this, that in those days the Thessalonian believers having had the truth of the nearness of the Lord's return that the Lord might return at

any moment they became restless and fussy and meddlesome selling their goods and wandering about from house to house and they said in so many words why labor? why toil? why lay up anything for a rainy

day? the Lord's coming, why work? and so Paul tells them not to be idle not to be on relief but to work thereby be able to help the weak the afflicted and the needy and then right after speaking upon this general subject of brotherly love Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit turns now upon the blessed hope of the believers what will happen to the saints at the second coming of Christ now some of the believers then were deeply concerned what would happen to their loved ones that had died and so Paul under the inspiration of the Spirit begins to instruct them on the blessed hope and

what will happen to the believers at the second coming of Christ now in these five verses I'm going to take two or three Sundays on them my thoughts will center around four words the return of Christ and then we have the resurrection, the dead in Christ arising first and then we have the reunion and then we have the reception caught up to meet the Lord in the air and so may we turn our attention now to the 13th verse and in these messages we'll attempt to answer some questions as follows is the soul of man immortal? does man's personality continue to exist after death? shall we recognize our loved ones in heaven? where is the believer's soul and spirit between death and resurrection? in what kind of a state does the believer exist in between death and resurrection? and then does the soul

sleep between death and resurrection? now tell your friends to tune in from Sunday to Sunday for we're going to spend two or three Sundays on these five verses and answer some of these questions that come so often to us in the work. now please note in the 13th verse but I would not have you to be ignorant brethren. he's directing these words to the brethren, members of God's family that are closer than brothers in the flesh and to we who are in Christ, we are closer to one another knit so together that we are closer than brothers in the flesh if you can get that picture of brethren in Christ how we ought to be tenderly affectionate one to another speaking good of one to another and building one another up in the faith instead of criticizing and tearing down and so Paul first of all is

speaking to the brethren of the household of faith, not to the unsaved.

they have no hope and if you're outside of Christ today, you are without hope, without Christ, without God, dead in trespasses and sin and so with that in mind we know to whom therefore these words are directed now this is the thing that he wanted to get across to them. he said I would not have you through the lack of knowledge be ignorant concerning them which are asleep that ye sorrow not even as others which have no hope now we want to find out what it means when it speaks of asleep to the believers well, will you notice please this is more of a bible study today. in the 13th verse we have the word asleep.

in the 14th verse, sleep in Jesus. the 15th verse, which are asleep. now one of the finest ways to find out what the bible teaches is to compare scripture with scripture don't take a verse out of its context but compare and I will say that the scriptures throw a great deal of light upon the doctrines of the word.

now with your bibles will you turn with me for a moment to the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians I'm giving this so that you will have thus saith the Lord the word of God to stand upon in the hour of sorrow in the hour when some loved one may slip away to be with the Lord now in 1st Corinthians 15, Paul said he declared unto them the gospel concerning the death burial and resurrection of Christ from the dead then he goes on to give the arguments and the witnesses of the resurrection of Christ from among the dead and then we have these verses 13th of 1st Corinthians 15 but if there be no resurrection of the dead then is Christ not risen 14th verse and if Christ be not risen then is our preaching vain and your faith is also vain 17th verse and if Christ be not raised your faith is vain ye are

yet in your sin the 18th verse then they which are fallen asleep in Jesus are perished and then the 20th verse these words but now Christ is risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept and then right at the end of the chapter Paul says now listen behold 51st verse I show you a mystery and here in 1st Corinthians 15 Paul is emphasizing the fact that when the Lord returns there will be many believers living while in 1st Thessalonians 4 he is telling the living believers what will happen to those that have died in the faith now here it is we shall not all sleep that is not all believers will be dead when the Lord returns but we shall all be chained in a moment in a twinkling of an eye at the last trump for the trumpet shall sound and the dead those that are asleep in

Jesus will be raised incorruptible and we shall be chained for this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality so when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written death that awful enemy death will be swallowed up in victory now Paul never speaks of the death of a believer in so many words that the believer died he speaks of the death of a believer as a departure to be with Christ which is far better now let's make it practical and write down your loved one who loved the Lord Jesus with all of his heart died recently what happened simply this that the soul and spirit of that beloved one left the body the earthly tabernacle to depart to be with Christ

which is far better and immediately when that soul departed to be with Christ it was clothed upon with the heavenly tabernacle eternal not made with hand for we know 2 Corinthians 5 that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved go back to dust we have a building of God a house not made with hand eternal in the heaven now listen when the body has been put away in the grave it speaks of the body as asleep never the soul and spirit there is not one single verse of scripture from Genesis to Revelation that teaches the soul after death is conscious living just as much as it is conscious and living in the earthly tabernacle before death and when a believer dies the soul and spirit let me repeat depart to be with Christ which is far better the body is laid away asleep to return to

the dust awaiting the first resurrection turn to Matthew 27 52 this is the authority that the body slept and then I'll have you turn for a few moments to the 16th of Luke now notice the 27th of Matthew beginning at the 51st verse and behold the veil of the temple was rent and trained from top to the bottom the morning of Calvary and the earth did quake and the rocks rent and the graves were open now notice it and many bodies of the saints bodies which slept arose and there you have the scriptural authority that it refers to the body and not to the soul my mother is just as conscious today in the glory clothed upon with her heavenly tabernacle as she was in the days of her flesh and you'll know each other in glory I'll give you the scripture for in some other broadcast but now wait what

about the death of those that die outside of Christ I want you to just read this with me for just a moment the 16th of Luke beginning at the 19th verse will you follow carefully please be able to give a reason for the hope that is within you what takes place friend of mine if you die in your sins tonight if you die a godless cursing sinner what will happen to you your soul and spirit I'll give you God's word for it and may you flee to the offer of grace in Christ before it's too late we're told here now remember this is a description of the place of departed spirits before Calvary before the resurrection of Christ from among the dead about a rich man and Lazarus and it came to pass 22nd verse the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom now notice in the rich man

also died and was buried and in Hades he lifted up his eyes he had eyesight being in torment he could feel and see if Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom he cried and said he could speak no soul sleep here

father Abraham have mercy on me and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue for I am tormented in this flame these are not my words but if you die in your sins you cannot go where Christ is Abraham said son remember ye have memory that thou in thy lifetime receiveth good things besides all this between us and you there's a great gulf fixed so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot neither can they pass to us that would come from thence and when Christ rose from the dead what happened he led or rather emptied Abraham's bosom of

all the old testament saints Abel and Enoch and Abraham and David and Jonathan he took all the old testament saints up with him into heaven where Jesus and the saints are now living and this side of the resurrection if you die in Christ the soul and spirit depart to be with Christ which is far better the body sleeps until the resurrection morn but if you die outside of Christ the old testament place for the departed wicked dead is still in existence you'll go where Jesus is now God says why will you perish why will you die I'm not willing that any should perish someday God forbid if you die in your sin your body will be laid away awaiting the second resurrection the resurrection of the wicked dead and you'll be reunited with that old sin cursed body of yours stand before the judgment of

the great white throne be rewarded according to the deeds done in the body or punished I should say and then cast into the lake of fire which burneth forever a place prepared for the devil and his angels not for human beings God grants that you may come today while you have life and breath and memory and free will come and accept the Christ of eternity as your personal savior let bow your head in prayer our father we thank thee for thy word the entrance of which giveth light light beyond this wilderness journey this this sojourn appear upon this earth and we thank thee for those that are in Christ there's the blessed hope that those who have died in Christ someday whose bodies are asleep will be raised incorruptible but oh father while the day of grace is still open in our holding back

the day of judgment we plead with men to come to the foot of the cross and accept thy offer of grace in Christ for thou has said to as many as receive him to those that receive him thou will give the power to become the sons of God thou art not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance and may many out in radio land come today may they kneel by the radio and look up into thy face and say father receive me in Christ I am now accepting thy beloved son as my own personal savior God bless you wherever you're making the decision while our heads are bowed in the quietness of the closing moments of this broadcast here in Long Beach how many will quickly put their hand up and say by the uplifted hand brother fuller pray for me I here now want to accept Christ as my

personal savior will you put your hand up any place in this audience and say pray for me quickly God bless you anyone else just while we're bowed in prayer anyone else any place yes God bless you God bless you back there God bless you under the balcony up in the balcony to my right anyone up there put your hand up and say pray for me God is speaking to you God bless you up there in the balcony to the rear of the balconies there anyone put your hand up and say pray for me balconies to the left this is between you and God put your hand up and say brother fuller pray for me yes I see I think I see a hand up there anyone else any place here on the lower floor will you put your hand up and say pray for me anyone else God bless you back there anyone else God's not willing that any should perish

but that all should come to repent is there anyone more to put their hand up and say pray for me where are you yes a sailor boy God bless you anyone else we'll wait just a moment come now let us reason together though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow anyone else just before we close and go off the air one more hand to go up oh we'd love to see one more soul saved today here in the

visible audience we'll wait for you where are you is there another hand to go up and say pray for me any place any place I'm waiting for you just before we close the broadcast I feel checked that there's just one more to come before we close the broadcast is there another hand where are you God bless you I'm so glad I waited for you God bless you back there our Father we thank you for

speaking to so many hearts here today praised to be with you next Lord's Day on the Old Fashioned Revival Hour let's continue in prayer as we go off the air and friends in Radioland you pray with us as we go into the short altar service

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