

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

THE RETURN OF CHRIST

By Pastor Brian De Jong

By now you've no doubt seen the billboards or heard the prediction that Jesus is set to return on May 21st. Although Scripture says that the date of Christ's return is unknown and unknowable, certain people have become thoroughly convinced that it will all transpire on May 21st.

Beyond the obvious problem of "date-setting," there is a whole package of dispensational premillennial assumptions tied up with this kind of thinking. They believe that true Christians will be raptured out, that Christ will establish an earthly physical kingdom centered in modern day Jerusalem, and that there will be a literal 1000 year reign of Christ physically upon the earth.

The Scriptures teach something much different. One important passage is found in 2nd Thessalonians 1:6-10, which reads, "For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed."

When Christ returns, it will be an awful time of judgment for all who have re-

jected the gospel and troubled the church. For when Jesus comes again, he will deal out retribution to those who do not know God. Think of that – what a fierce day that will be.

The intensity of His judgment is increased as He is 'revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire...'



Again consider what that would look like – Christ appearing accompanied by myriads of mighty warrior angels, coming in flaming fire. This is no storybook picture of 'Jesus meek and mild.' He comes with eyes blazing and sword flashing – with fire and angels to wreak

havoc on all of His enemies who have opposed Him.

Judgment day will include an element of revenge – not that we will seek or exact revenge. But it is true that Christ will avenge His afflicted and persecuted people. "It is mine to avenge, and I will repay," He says.

As terrifying as His return will be to those who do not obey the gospel of Christ, it will be a time of sweet relief and vindication of His people. He will come to relieve the downtrodden, and to release those who have been persecuted. He will be glorified in His saints and marveled at among all who have believed in Him.

Do you ever think about what Christ's return will be like for you, personally? Will you be among those shrieking in terror, or those marveling at your beautiful Savior? Will you suffer eternal destruction or enjoy eternal life? Are you ready for His return?

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Mnemonics...

- *Family Fellowship Meal, 15th*
- *Ladies' Banquet, 21st*

Heavenly Rest

By C. H. Spurgeon

...Seest thou that little river of death, glistening in the sunlight, and across it dost thou see the pinnacles of the eternal city? Dost thou mark the pleasant suburbs and all the joyous inhabitants? Turn thine eye to that spot. Dost thou see where that ray of light is glancing now? There is a little spot there; dost thou see it? That is thy patrimony; that is thine. Oh, if thou couldst fly across thou wouldst see written upon it, “this remaineth for such an one, preserved for him only. He shall be caught up and dwell for ever with God.” Poor doubting one; see thine inheritance; it is thine. If thou believest in the Lord Jesus thou art one of the Lord’s people; if thou hast repented of sin thou art one of the Lord’s people; if thou hast been renewed in heart thou art one of the Lord’s people, and there is a place for thee, a crown for thee... No one else shall have it but thyself, and thou shalt have it ere long. Just pardon me one moment if I beg of you to conceive of yourselves as being in heaven. Is it not a strange thing to think of—a poor clown in heaven? Think, how will you feel with your crown on your head? Weary matron, many years have rolled over you. How changed will be the scene when you are young again. Ah, toil-worn laborer, only think when thou shalt rest for aye. Canst thou conceive it? couldst thou but think for a moment, of thyself as being in heaven now, what a strange surprise would seize thee. Thou wouldst not so as much say, “What! are these streets of gold? What! are these walls of

jasper?” “What, am I here? in white? Am I here, with a crown on my brow? Am I here singing, that was always groaning? What! I praise God that once cursed him? What! I lifting up my voice in his honor? Oh, precious blood that washed me clean! Oh, precious faith that set me free! Oh, precious Spirit that made me repent, else I had been cast away and been in hell! But oh! what wonders! Angels! I am surprised. I am enraptured! Wonder of wonders! Oh! gates of pearls, I long since heard of you! Oh! joys that never fade, I long since heard tell of you! But I am like the Queen of Sheba, the half has not yet been told me. Profusion, oh profusion of bliss!—wonder of wonders!—miracle of miracles! What a world I am in! And oh! that I am here, this is the topmost miracle of all!” And yet ‘tis true, ‘tis true; and that is the glory of it. It is true. Come, worm, and prove it, come, pall; come shroud; come, and prove it. Then come wings of faith, come, leap like a seraph; come, eternal ages, come, and ye shall prove that there are joys that the eye hath not seen, which the ear hath not heard, and which only God can reveal to us by his spirit. Oh! my earnest prayer is, that none of you may come short of this rest, but that ye may enter into it, and enjoy it for ever and ever. God give you His great blessing, for Jesus sake! Amen.

Taken from the end of “Heavenly Rest”, a sermon delivered by C. H. Spurgeon on May 24, 1857. For the rest of the sermon visit: <http://www.spurgeon.org/sermons/0133.htm>

De Masters in Mount Vernon IN

From the De Masters

Ivan and Carla are on another interim adventure. We are now going to southern Indiana, to Mount Vernon. This city on the shore of the Ohio River 15 miles west of Evansville is in Posey County (named for General Thomas Posey, Governor of the Indiana Territory. He grew up next to George Washington in Mt. Vernon VA) The population is 6,687 but is part of the Evansville metropolitan area with a population of 342,815. It is situated where Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky meet. The median income is \$40,000. Of the 4 famous people from Mt. Vernon, 3 were Union generals in the Civil War.

The OPC in Mt. Vernon has 9 families and is without a pastor. Ivan will be helping with the pastoral search, calling, conducting meetings, preaching twice on Sundays and counseling and training elders. He will work closely with Rev. Sam Allison, who has an OPC church east of Evansville. At one time both groups were one but the distance

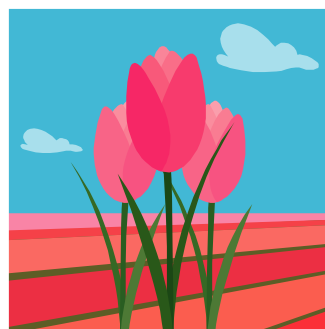
traveled by some members made it wise to separate into east and west groups. They meet together once a month. Sam and Sonja have been our friends for over 50 years. At one point we were guardians for their children in case of their untimely death. Now all 7 children are married and provided Sam and Sonja with 32 grandchildren.

The congregation has bought an old Methodist Church. There is a manse, which is furnished and unoccupied. That is where we will stay.

Please pray for us in this effort:

- That a suitable pastor be found
- That there will be a good adjustment for them and us
- Energy for Ivan and all his responsibilities
- Safety in traveling back and forth (8 hour drive)
- That God will be praised in all endeavors

April Deacons' Report



May Birthdays



Family Fellowship Meal

Everyone's invited for some delicious food following the evening service on Sunday, May 15th at the church. There is a sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the hallway at church.





Grace OPC

May 2011

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website:
graceopcsheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net
briandejong@earthlink.net

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. | 3 | 4 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m. | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Missions Sunday | 9 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i> | 10 | 11 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m. | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Evening Fellowship Meal | 16 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. | 17 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m. | 18 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m. | 19 | 20 | 21 Ladies' Luncheon, 11 a.m. |
| 22 | 23 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i> | 24 | 25 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m. | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Lord's Supper, (a.m.) | 30 | 31 | 28 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m. | 29 | 30 | 31 |



Pine Haven at Pizza Ranch

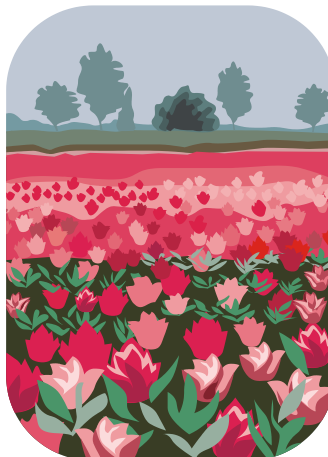
The Pine Haven Women's Auxiliary will be serving at the Pizza Ranch, in Oostburg, on Monday, May 16 from 4:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Please come, let us serve you, and donate towards our projects to benefit the residents of the Pine Haven Christian Communities.



Ladies' Luncheon Invitation

Titus 2:3-5 *“Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, to that the Word of God will not be dishonored.”*

Ladies and girls, have you known an older Christian woman like the one described above, who has been to you an example of reverent behavior? She may be your grandmother, mother, mother-in-law, aunt or older sister in Christ. Has this godly woman encouraged



you to love your husband and children? (Or, girls, your future husbands and children?) Maybe by her speech or example she has taught you to be sensible, pure, kind and busy at home.

Let's thank God for His sweet gift of mothers and other reverent women as we enjoy the Ladies Luncheon on May 21, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. Bring along your grandma's or mom's favorite dish and recipe to share. Also, please jot down and bring reminiscences of or tributes to the godly woman who has most impacted your life. During the program we'll honor these ladies and thank the Lord for them. Come, join us for a delightful time of encouragement and fellowship!

Cheesy Broccoli Bacon Casserole

- ★ 40 oz. frozen broccoli, thawed
- ★ 8 strips of bacon, cooked & crumbled
- ★ 8 oz. cream cheese
- ★ 8 oz. cheddar cheese, shredded
- ★ 1/2 cup green onions, chopped
- ★ 1/2 tsp. salt
- ★ 1/4 tsp. pepper

Cook the broccoli 4-5 minutes or just until tender-crisp, drain well. Grease a 9x13 pan. Mix cream cheese, cheddar cheese, green onions, bacon, salt & pepper. Stir in broccoli & put mixture in the pan. Bake in a 350° oven for 20-30 minutes. Stirring once, halfway through.

Megan Boss



“The eyes
of all look
to You,
And You give
them their food
in due time.
You open Your
hand
And satisfy
the desire of
every living
thing.”

Camp Calvin

Room is still available for anyone entering grades 4-9 this fall who would like to attend Camp Calvin this summer, June 20-25. The late fee will be waived if you register now. Registration brochures are located in the hallway. Go to www.campcalvin.com for more details.





Showing forth the
excellencies of Jesus
Christ

Grace OPC

Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website: graceopcsheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net
briandejong@earthlink.net

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



Spurgeon

Corner

“I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”
(2 Cor. 6:6)

What a sweet title: “My people!”
What a cheering revelation: “Their God!”
How much of meaning is couched in those two words, “My people!” Here is *speciality*. The whole world is God’s; the heaven, even the heaven of heavens is the Lord’s, and he reigneth among the children of men; but of those whom he hath chosen, whom he hath purchased to himself, he saith what he saith not of others—“My people.” In this word there is the idea of *proprietorship*. In a special manner the “Lord’s portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.” All the nations upon earth are his; the whole world is in his power; yet are his people, his chosen, more especially his possession; for he has done more for them than others; he has bought them with his blood; he has brought them nigh to himself; he has set his great heart upon them; he has loved them with an everlasting love, a love which many waters cannot quench, and which the revolutions of time shall never suffice in the least degree to diminish. Dear friends, can you, by faith, see yourselves in that number? Can you look up to heaven and say, “My Lord and my God: mine by that sweet *relationship* which entitles me to call thee Father; mine by that hallowed *fellowship* which I delight to hold with thee when thou art pleased to manifest thyself unto me as thou dost not unto the world?” Canst thou read the Book of Inspiration, and find there the indentures of thy salvation? Canst thou read thy title writ in precious blood? Canst thou, by humble faith, lay hold of Jesus’ garments, and say, “My Christ”? If thou canst, then God saith of thee, and of others like thee, “My people;” for, if God be your God, and Christ your Christ, the Lord has a special, peculiar favour to you; you are the object of his choice, accepted in his beloved Son.



Morning, May 5th Morning & Evening, by C. H. SPURGEON

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held July 25th-29th from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Children from Pre-K to 6th grade are welcome to attend. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors as we head out to the Old West in Answers in Genesis's *Gold Rush: Discovering the Rock of Ages*. Contact Deborah Arndt for more information.

