



St Barnabas Cray

"Security in Judgment: Christ's Eternal Kingdom"

Weekly Devotional Journey

Monday - The Promise of His Glorious Return

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. - Matthew 25:31

Devotional Thought

As we begin this week's journey through the profound words of the Nicene Creed, we encounter perhaps one of the most challenging truths we declare: Christ will come again in glory. Like the disciples straining to see Jesus as He disappeared into the clouds, we too find ourselves looking heavenward, wondering what His return will look like. The wait has been long—nearly two thousand years—yet our hope remains steadfast. Just as Jesus left this world ascending into glory, He will return in the same magnificent way. This isn't merely a distant theological concept; it's the blessed hope that shapes how we live each day, knowing our Saviour will return to complete what He began.

Reflection Question

How does the promise of Christ's return in glory influence the way you approach your daily decisions and relationships?

From Sunday's Sermon

"We do not know for certain how or when Christ will return but we are told to keep watch and be ready."

Today's Application

Today, live with the awareness that Christ could return at any moment. Let this truth inspire you to show extra kindness to a colleague, forgive someone who has hurt you, or take time to pray for a friend in need. Keep watch by staying spiritually alert and ready.

Morning Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the promise of Your glorious return. Help me to live today with the joyful expectation of seeing You face to face. May this hope transform how I love others and serve You. Keep my heart watchful and ready for Your coming. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Watching and Waiting

Evening Reflection

Tonight, as we reflect on the day, we're reminded that Christ's return will be as sudden and unmistakable as lightning flashing across the sky. We cannot predict the timing, but we can prepare our hearts. The disciples were told not to stand gazing into heaven but to live purposefully whilst waiting. This evening, consider how you've used the gift of today in light of eternity.

Evening Reflection

What would you want to be found doing when Christ returns?

Evening Prayer

Heavenly Father, as this day ends, I thank You for Your faithfulness. Help me to sleep peacefully, knowing that whether You return tonight or in years to come, I am secure in Your love. Prepare my heart for tomorrow's opportunities to serve You. Amen.

Tuesday - The Judge Who Brings Salvation

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due to us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. - 2 Corinthians 5:10

Devotional Thought

The word 'judgement' can make us uncomfortable, yet when we understand that our Judge is also our Saviour, fear transforms into hope. Christ comes not primarily to condemn but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. Yes, we will all stand before Him, but we stand as forgiven children, not condemned prisoners. The judgement we face is not about earning our salvation—Christ has already secured that—but about how we've stewarded the life and gifts He's given us. This should inspire us to live with purpose, knowing that our loving Judge sees every act of kindness, every moment of faithfulness, every sacrifice made in His name.

Reflection Question

Does knowing that Jesus will judge the world make you fearful or give you hope and trust? Why?

From Sunday's Sermon

"Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."

Today's Application

Examine your heart today. Confess any sins to God, knowing He is faithful to forgive. Then, live boldly in His grace, making choices that reflect your identity as His beloved child who will one day stand confidently before His throne.

Morning Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are both my Judge and my Saviour. Remove any fear I have about standing before You, and fill me instead with grateful love. Help me to live today in a way that honours You, knowing that Your grace covers my failures. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Grace That Conquers Fear

Evening Reflection

As evening falls, we can rest in the beautiful truth that Christ's judgement is filtered through His sacrifice. He who bore our sins on the cross will not condemn those who trust in Him. The living and the dead will indeed be judged, but for believers, this judgement leads to vindication and reward, not condemnation. Sleep tonight in the peace of His forgiveness.

Evening Reflection

How can you rest more fully in God's grace rather than worrying about His judgement?

Evening Prayer

Gracious God, I rest tonight knowing that Jesus has taken away my sin. Thank You that when I stand before You, I will be clothed in His righteousness. Help me to live tomorrow from this place of security and love. Amen.

Wednesday - A Kingdom Without End

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; and his kingdom will never end. - Luke 1:32-33

Devotional Thought

When the angel spoke to young Mary, he revealed something extraordinary: her Son would establish a kingdom that would never end. Consider the great civilisations of history—the ancient Egyptians lasted 3,000 years, others have risen and fallen, but Christ's kingdom is eternal. It had no beginning and will have no end. Unlike earthly kingdoms built on power and conquest, Christ's kingdom is built on love, sacrifice, and redemption. We are not merely subjects in this kingdom; we are beloved children with an eternal inheritance. The kingdoms of this world will pass away, but we belong to something infinitely greater and more enduring. This truth should fill us with unshakeable confidence and hope.

Reflection Question

How does knowing you belong to an eternal kingdom change your perspective on temporary earthly troubles?

From Sunday's Sermon

"The kingdom of Christ will not only have no end, we also know that there has never been a time when it was not in existence."

Today's Application

Today, when faced with challenges or disappointments, remind yourself that you are a citizen of an eternal kingdom. Let this truth help you respond with grace, patience, and hope, knowing that your true home is secure forever.

Morning Prayer

King Jesus, thank You for inviting me into Your eternal kingdom. When earthly circumstances feel overwhelming, remind me that I belong to something far greater. Help me to live today as a faithful citizen of Your never-ending reign. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Citizens of Eternity

Evening Reflection

Tonight, reflect on the magnificent truth that you are part of a kingdom that spans all of history and extends into eternity. Whilst earthly kingdoms rise and fall, Christ's kingdom remains constant. You have been given not just a place in this kingdom, but the promise that you will be with Him forever. This is your true identity and eternal security.

Evening Reflection

What does it mean to you personally that Christ's kingdom will never end?

Evening Prayer

Eternal King, I marvel that You have made me a citizen of Your everlasting kingdom. As I rest tonight, fill my heart with the joy and security of knowing I belong to You forever. May this truth shape how I live tomorrow. Amen.

Thursday - Prepared Places and Eternal Promises

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. - John 14:3

Devotional Thought

Jesus didn't just promise to return; He promised to take us to be with Him forever. Imagine the love behind this promise—the King of kings preparing a place specifically for you. This isn't a vague hope but a definite commitment from the One who cannot lie. He who spoke the universe into existence is personally preparing your eternal home. This promise should transform how we view both our present circumstances and our future hope. We are not wandering aimlessly through life; we are journeying towards a prepared destination, invited by Love Himself. Every difficulty we face is temporary, but our place with Christ is eternal.

Reflection Question

How does Jesus's promise to prepare a place for you personally impact your faith and daily life?

From Sunday's Sermon

"Jesus promised that we will be with him for ever."

Today's Application

When you feel lonely, anxious, or uncertain today, remember that Jesus is actively preparing a place for you. Let this truth bring comfort and motivation to persevere through any challenges you're facing.

Morning Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for the incredible promise that You are preparing a place for me. When I feel discouraged or alone, remind me that my future with You is secure. Help me to live today with the joy and confidence this promise brings. Amen.

Evening Devotion

The Alpha and Omega

Evening Reflection

As we near the end of our week's journey, we're reminded that Christ is the Alpha and Omega—the beginning and the end. He who was, and is, and is to come, holds all of time and eternity in His hands. Your life, your struggles, your hopes—all are held securely by the One who transcends time itself. Rest in His eternal presence tonight.

Evening Reflection

How does knowing that Christ is the Alpha and Omega—the beginning and end of all things—give you peace?

Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end of all things. I rest tonight knowing that my life is held securely in Your eternal hands. Thank You for being the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

Friday - Living a Life of Love

Morning Devotion

Today's Verse

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. - Ephesians 5:1-2

Devotional Thought

As we conclude our week's reflection on Christ's return and eternal kingdom, we're called to a practical response: live a life of love. Paul's charge to Timothy reminds us that in view of Christ's appearing and His kingdom, we must be prepared in season and out of season. But how do we live in light of these eternal truths? By following Christ's example of sacrificial love. Every act of kindness, every moment of patience, every gesture of forgiveness becomes a fragrant offering to God. We don't love to earn our place in His kingdom—we love because we already belong to it. This is how citizens of an eternal kingdom live whilst waiting for their King's return.

Reflection Question

In what specific ways can you 'live a life of love' today, following Christ's example of sacrificial giving?

From Sunday's Sermon

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us."

Today's Application

Today, look for opportunities to love sacrificially—perhaps by serving someone who cannot repay you, forgiving someone who has wronged you, or giving generously to someone in need. Let your love be a fragrant offering to God.

Morning Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me so completely. Help me to live today as Your dearly loved child, showing the same sacrificial love that Christ showed me. May my life be a fragrant offering that brings You glory as I wait for His return. Amen.

Evening Devotion

Ready and Waiting

Evening Reflection

As this week ends, we've journeyed through the profound truths of Christ's return, His righteous judgement, and His eternal kingdom. Now we understand that our response should be a life lived in love, ready for His appearing. Whether He comes tonight or in years to come, we can rest peacefully, knowing we belong to Him and His kingdom that will never end.

Evening Reflection

How has this week's reflection on Christ's return and eternal kingdom changed your perspective on living for Him?

Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, as this week concludes, I thank You for the hope of Your return and the security of Your eternal kingdom. Help me to live each day in love, ready for Your appearing, confident in Your promises. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.