

Rapture of the Church of Jesus Christ

I just cannot turn this issue loose, or maybe I do not want to turn it loose, but in either case I want to continue on this same vein for yet another rant.

I want to examine the “**doctrine of imminence**” This differs from the term **Divine immanence**

God has complete control over His domain. **Divine immanence** is the description of God’s authority and control over His creation and people as our King.

The doctrine of **immanence** is not listed in scripture as such but are common in theological literature.

On the other hand,

The word **imminence** means *-impending or about to occur*. When we see clouds appearing, lightening everywhere we believe that severe weather is coming. It is immanent. All signs point to what is about to happen.

The imminence of the Lord’s return was not only part of the doctrine taught by Jesus and the apostles, but it was a real part of their lives. They genuinely expected the Lord’s return at any moment.

Look with me at **2nd Peter 3: 3&following** - and I quote – “knowing this **first**; that scoffers will come in the last days (and we believe that we are in the last of the last days) walking according to their own lusts and saying – Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation>”

Scoffers are here today beloved. They are saying the same thing that Peter warned about. Sadly, this kind of worldly thinking has permeated the Christians Church.

I am reminded of the comment by I believe Willie Mays when he said “every time I strikeout, I am one swing closer to a home run.

We are some 2,020 years closer to His imminent return, than were the disciples or apostles.

Paul’s quote comes to mind in **Romans 13:11** – “And do this, knowing the time that now it- is high time to awake out of sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”

Beloved if we truly believe we are in the latter of the latter days then verse 12 becomes very important in our walk. It says “The night is far spent; the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light, let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy- put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision or the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

Believers who believe we are in the “later days” tend to walk uprightly. It is just the way it is.

Take a good look at **Matthew 24:36-44** Jesus is comparing His return to what Noah went through before the flood came. You will note that the things that are happening just before His return are not necessarily sinful or bad things. They are just every day type of things with no thought about tomorrow,

Notice verses **43** –Jesus said “know this, if the master of the house had known what hour the thief was coming, he would have watched out, not allowing the house to be broken into. Therefore (verse 44) you also be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Blessed is the man to whom Jesus will find him **doing**.

Also, look at **Luke 12- 35-40** Same thought

Please note that in **Luke 12 – 42-48** that Jesus has a caution to those leaders of His Church who because He delays His coming will begin to abuse their fellow Christians and begin to live immorally

Some today are living as though He is never coming back.

The end of the book at Revelations reminds us “Surely, I am coming quickly”

Believers are taught to expect their Savior at any moment. Look at **Philippians 3:20-21**, or **Titus 2:13** or **Hebrews 9: 28** or **1st Thessalonians 5:2** or **Revelation 22 – 7&12**

Some of the best references are: **1st Thessalonians 1:10**, **1st Thessalonians 5 2&6** **1st Thessalonians 4 – 15-18**

In Paul’s **2nd Epistle to the Thessalonians 2:1&2** he cautions the folks to wait and know that the rapture had not yet happened, but will surely happen in the future and at any time ie; don’t be concerned because you are still here. i

Am I teaching that the church will not have to go through any difficulties before He returns. Absolutely not. I am pre-tribulation, not pre trouble as Keith would say.

“In this world you will have tribulation – period –BUT be of good cheer, I have overcome the world – Jesus said in **John 16:33**

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