The Coming of the Son of Man – Luke 17:22-37  
By Brent Paschall [brent@brentnrachel.com]  
Presented 10/2011 at Blue Ridge Church of Christ, Roanoke, VA [blueridgecoc.org]

I. Introduction  
a. For the Christian, the return of Jesus Christ the most anticipated event they can look forward to.  
b. In our lesson on the resurrection last week, we examined the assurance the scriptures provide that this life is not all there is  
   i. Jesus was raised from the dead  
   ii. We will be, too  
   iii. And with incorruptible, sin-free, eternal, spiritual bodies  
   iv. That is very special  
c. But the very best thing about the life to come, is that we will be in the presence and fellowship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

II. Key Thought: In this text, Jesus gives important information for Christians about his return

III. We do not have to wait until Jesus’ return to be part of the kingdom of heaven – v. 20-21  
a. Pharisees  
   i. Like most Jews, they expected a physical kingdom to arrive when the Messiah came  
   ii. Jesus was making the claim to be the Christ,  
      1. But where was his kingdom?  
      2. Shouldn’t it be on its way by now?  
   iii. Jesus said, in effect,  
      1. It is already here  
      2. You won’t see it if you are looking for your own ideas of the kingdom  
      3. But the real kingdom is already active in your midst  
         a. Not within you – these were unbelieving Pharisees  
         b. Among you, in your midst  
         c. They were in the presence of the king of that kingdom  
         d. And many of the subjects of the kingdom  
         e. But they did not recognize it  
   b. Today  
      i. Those who look forward to the millennial kingdom  
         1. Many still think that Jesus should have set up an earthly kingdom while he was here on earth  
            a. Since he didn’t do it the first time,  
            b. He will surely do it when he comes again  
         2. They are wrong!  
         3. Jesus is already reigning, and will reign until every enemy is destroyed – 1 Cor. 15:25-26
a. He is reigning on David’s throne as the Christ – Acts 2:29-33
b. As a descendant of David and Coniah he will never rule in Jerusalem on earth, as some suppose – Jer. 22:28-30
c. He is reigning in heaven
d. His willing subjects render him the service and obedience of loyal faithful hearts
e. But eventually, all will submit to him, willing or not – Phil. 2:9-11

4. Just as it was in the time of Jesus, the kingdom of heaven is in our midst
   a. It is present on earth

IV. No one alive will miss the coming of Jesus Christ – v. 22-25
   a. It may be a long time coming
      i. Those who love Jesus will urgently desire it
      ii. They will long for it
      iii. Many would not see it before their lives ended
   b. Some will think they can predict it
      i. Lo here, Lo there
      ii. Nope
   c. We don’t need anyone to tell us where to look
      i. When he comes, everyone will know it
      ii. Lightening illuminates the whole sky at once
      iii. Jesus will illuminate the whole world at once
   d. Jesus had to complete his first mission before he could begin his second – v. 25

V. In the meantime, the world as a whole will grow so accustomed to Christ being absent that they will be wholly unprepared – v. 26-32
   a. Like in the days of Noah
      i. Busy
      ii. Unsuspecting
      iii. Disaster
   b. Like in the days of Lot
      i. Busy
      ii. Unsuspecting
      iii. Disaster
   c. Christ’s coming will be the same
      i. Busy
      ii. Unsuspecting
      iii. Disaster!
   d. Maintain the right relationship between yourself and the things of this world
      i. If you would need to return home to be prepared for Christ return, you are not prepared
ii. Do not be so attached to these things that we would hesitate for a moment to go
   1. It is hard to live that way
   2. But it is harder to not live that way

e. Remember Lot’s wife

VI. Success will depend on acting contrary to our worldly inclinations – v. 33
   a. Our physical life
      i. If we try to save it we will lose it
      ii. If we don’t try to save it, we will still lose it
   b. But the physical life can do one thing
      i. If used properly, we can be assured of an eternal spiritual life
      ii. We must lose this life to gain that life
      iii. But are much the better for it, by far

VII. There will be a great separation – v. 34-37
   a. Some taken
      i. To meet the Lord in the air – 1 The. 4:16-18
   b. Others left
      i. The closest companions will be separated
         1. If one is ready and other is not
      ii. The most inseparable friends will be divided one from another
         1. If one is ready and the other is not
      iii. Family members who have never been apart
         1. One will be taken and the other left
      iv. We have no control over whether our family, friends and neighbors choose to faithfully follow the Lord
         1. It is an individual decision
         2. However
            a. If we do not want to be separated from them eternally
            b. We would do well to do everything in our power to encourage them to get ready and stay ready
            c. So that all can be taken and none left
   c. Left where?
      i. Where the eagles of God’s wrath and punishment will descend upon the wicked and unfaithful

VIII. Conclusion
   a. Invitation