

Dr. Allan MacRae
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one another, to help one another to encourage one another, to give one another what we find in the word and the Lord said blessed are those whom he finds doing this when he comes.

So here we have it - we don't know when he is coming - we are always to be ready. But on the other hand we are told anti-Christ must come. There will be terrible troubles upon the earth, there will be signs in the heavens before he comes. How do you fit them together? Well somebody says, there can't be two comings of Christ, there must be only one and that is right. But there may be more than one phase to it. When was the first coming of Christ? Was it when the virgin conceived him? Was it when he was born? Was it when he began his preaching? Was it when he was crucified? Was it when he was raised from the dead? When was the first coming of Christ? There were many phases and the only way you can fit these things together is to see that there are at least 2 phases to the return of Christ. Suddenly, unexpectedly as described in Thessalonians here the Lord will come and we will go up into the sky to meet him in the air and all who truly believe on him at that time will then be gathered to him. Then after that, the anti-Christ will appear and after that there will be a period upon this earth, a period of terrible calamity, a period when with the influence of the church in holding the evil in check, satan will have a riot of activity, but during this period some will read the Bible, some will come to know the Lord, some will witness to him through persecution and suffering and then the Lord will come back, visibly bringing his own with him, back to this earth. He will come back here, satan will be bound and he will establish his great kingdom of universal joy and happiness and peace upon this earth. Oh the victory is not for us. The victory is Christ's. We don't need to be discouraged. We talk ~~about~~ to somebody about the Lord, we present the word, we work for hours and we get nowhere.