

and they looked up into heaven wondering whether he would come back down again right soon, or what was going to happen ---these two men stood by them dressed in white who said, Ye men of Galilee why do you stand here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.

So this passage ends with the great promise of His return --a promise they were to keep before them and remember which was to have a great place in their expectation and in their life. He had told them repeatedly they were always to be ready for His coming for they did not know when he would come. It might be in the first watch of the night, or at midnight, or in the early morning hours. Blessed are those whom the Lord will find doing His work being ready and prepared for His coming. The promise of the coming of the Lord. Forgotten so often and laid aside by the Christian.

I talked with a woman not so long ago who attended a very orthodox church. A church which put great stress on the fundamentals. She had attended it for about 20 years. She never had heard a sermon on the second coming of Christ. She went to her pastor and said, Won't you give us a sermon on the second coming of Christ. "Yes, yes, that is one of our great doctrines; I'll be glad to cover it," he said. But after another 2 years he had never spoken on it! yet. He believed it, yes. But it was way back something distant. Not something that had a part in his life, his heart and his thought-- a part in his testimony.

So these are the 5 things we notice as we hasten through this passage. I did not read it to you in detail, but I'm sure you've all done that many times in most audiences. I would certainly have done so, but I'm sure that in this group you have it sufficiently in mind, all of you, that you would merely recall these five great emphases from it.

I'd like to take a more detailed examination of certain portions of it. In connection with that we will probably look at every word in the passage. In my former book, O Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach." That word "began" is a very interesting word. He did not say about all that Jesus did! Jesus' activity was not over. It was what he began. He did not say all that Jesus did before His crucifixion. He did not say all that Jesus did during 95% of the time he was here on earth. He said all that he began to do. The work of Jesus only began while He was here on earth. The work is carried on through His body--the body of Christ, in which every one who truly believes in Jesus Christ is an important part.

It is essential in what God wants him to do to the proper working of every other part of the body of Christ. He continues through His body to do and to teach. He began during the 3 years of His ministry, but His doing and His teaching has continued through the years and should be continued through us constantly.