**SPECIAL DELIVERY**

***Watching For Christ’s Return (#4)***

During this Covid-19 pandemic many companies have suffered terrible economic downturns. But one service has boomed. Companies that offer home deliveries have skyrocketed. With millions now working from home it is the service industries that offer front door deliveries that have survived, and thrived! Grocery shopping has drastically changed in the past six months as virtually all grocers now offer doorstep delivery. The same with Pharmacies. And all I have to do is say the names UPS, FedEx, and Amazon to tell you the tremendous explosion that special delivery has become.

There is, however, one delivery that cannot be brought to your front door. The delivery of the Kingdom of Christ back to God. More amazing then Amazon’s same day delivery will be Christ’s instant special delivery. “*We shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump*” (I Cor. 15:52). Read of this incredible moment that all saints of God are breathlessly awaiting:

*24 Then comes the end,* ***when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father****, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all”* (I Cor. 15:24-28).

Do you realize what is going to be in that special delivery? You and Me! We are the contents in that special present all gift-wrapped and handed personally to God! Can you imagine that? I wouldn’t miss this moment for the world, literally (Matt. 16:26).

Christians are called citizens of the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:3,10). God has *“****delivered us*** *from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the* ***kingdom*** *of the Son of His love”* (Col. 1:12-13).Paul, facing imminent death, wrote that in his past God had “***delivered******me*** *out of the mouth of the lion,”* but now as he looked to the future he knew *“the Lord will* ***deliver me*** *from every evil work and preserve me for* ***His heavenly kingdom****”* (2 Tim. 4:17-18).

We are Christ’s kingdom. We now are under His reign. But there is coming a special day in which our Lord will send His angels to gather out of this world all those who have submitted to His rule (Matt. 13:41-43). He will then bring His kingdom together to a special place where He will introduce us to His Father. Having put an end to His rule and reign, having destroyed His last enemy – Death – He will then step down from the throne and become “*subject to Him… that God may be all in all*” (I Cor. 15:28).

I don’t know about you, but this is so hard for me to grasp. God has submitted all judgment into the hands of His Son (Jn. 5:22; 2 Cor. 5:10), but after Christ returns and completes His work of judgment, He will then voluntarily step away in order to place Himself under the rule of the Father.

I’ve heard of kings who abdicated the throne. Napoleon Bonaparte gave up his French throne in 1814, but only because he was forced by circumstances to do so. Edward VIII stepped down from his British throne in 1936 in order to marry a prohibited divorcee from America named Wallis Simpson. Many Japanese and Chinese emperors renounced their rule for various motives. Richard Nixon resigned from the presidency in 1974 to avoid impeachment for the Watergate scandal.

But Jesus’ abdication was purely for holy and just reasons. It seems to me God the Father had given “*all authority in heaven and earth*” to Jesus after His resurrection (Matt. 28:18). He then ascended to heaven to sit down on His throne and reign over His kingdom (Lk. 1:32; Mk. 16:19; Ac. 2:34-36). But on the historic day when Jesus comes again to raise the dead and judge all men He will then return the kingdom to His Father. Those of us who have been faithful subjects in His kingdom will have a front row seat at this transfer of universal power back to God.

I’m trying to think of historic events I have lived to see in my short (?) lifetime.
1. Assassinations: President John F. Kennedy (1963) and Martin Luther King, Jr (1968).
2. Space program: The Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space flights leading to the Apollo 11 landing on the moon on July 20, 1969 with Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin. The first Space Shuttle launch of Columbia on April 12, 1981. The Mars landing rovers and other space explorations.
3. Wars: Korean War (1950’s), Vietnam War (1960’s-1970’s), Cold War (1950’s-1990’s), Persian Gulf War (1990’s-2000’s).
4. Technology: TV (1950’s). Computers (1960’s-present). Internet, invented by Vinton Cerf, Bob Kahn and Tim Berner Lee (1980’s).

That is all beyond my little pea-pickin’ brain to comprehend. It was all so spectacular to witness as part of history.

But all of man’s achievements and inventions will fade onto the ash heap of history compared to the greatest moment of eternity when Jesus returns to gather His kingdom, burn the whole universe up (2 Pet. 3:10-12), judge the entire population of earth since Adam (Matt. 25:31-32), then hand His kingdom back to His Father (I Cor. 15:24). Everything we have lived to see on earth will fade from memory and seem as nothing when measured by this coming day.

Just think, we will not only be alive to see the greatest event in all of history, but we will actually be part of it! Read this and weep…for joy: “*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ … that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”* (Rom. 8:16-18).

Special Delivery: Jesus returning the kingdom back to God. Don’t miss it.

I love you. -Rick