

The Three Appearings of Christ

Hebrews 9:24-28

These three appearings encompass the work of Christ in three tenses: **present** (“now”—*Heb. 9:24*), **past** (“once”—an accomplished work—*Heb. 9:27*), and **future** (“He shall appear”—*Heb. 9:28*).

Let us meditate on our Lord’s wondrous work on our behalf:

1) Christ is now appearing in heaven to represent us (*Heb. 9:24*).

As we represent our blessed Lord on the earth (*2 Cor. 5:20*), He represents us before the Father in heaven. His present ministry as our Intercessor, Advocate and High Priest must never be minimized. The very One who died for me now lives to intercede for me. To catch a glimpse of that holy ministry of intercession, meditate on John chapter 17. Our Saviour prays especially that we will be kept (*17:11,15*), sanctified (*17:17-19*), unified (*17:20-23*) and glorified (*17:24*).

2) Christ appeared at His first coming to redeem us (*Heb. 9:26*).

This sacrificial payment was made only once: “But now once...hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” How often the writer of Hebrews emphasized the once-for-all nature of Christ’s finished work (see *Heb. 9:26; 10:10; 10:12; 10:14*)! It was **finished**; God was satisfied and the issue of sin was dealt with finally. May every sinner personally appropriate by faith what Christ has perfectly accomplished.

3) Christ will appear at His second coming to receive us (*Heb. 9:28*).

May all of God’s blood-bought children be eagerly awaiting this awesome event when our salvation will be completed and we will be glorified, forever free from sin. When Christ came the first time His mission was to put away sin which He fully accomplished as He bore our sins in His own body on the tree (*1 Pet. 2:24*). At His Second Coming He will appear without or apart from sin, the problem of sin having been completely dealt with previously at the cross.

~*George Zeller*: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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