



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“We should keep looking up, but it is more important that we look inward and outward.”

Keep Looking Up, In and Out

In my teen years, I attended the York Gospel Center. For over 50 years, they had a radio program on WORK called “KLU Hour.” It was a recording of the Sunday evening church service. I helped a few times with the recordings. I remember that the choir would start singing: “Coming again, Coming again. Maybe morning and maybe noon. Maybe evening and maybe soon. Jesus is coming again.” Then Charles Shirey would get up and welcome listeners to the Keep Looking Up Hour.

It was at that church that I first learned about the rapture and the tribulation while watching a movie called [“A Thief in the Night”](#). It really scared me. I still replay the sequences in my mind and the theme song have been recently on my lips. Since that movie, there has been a series of films on the subject called [“Left Behind”](#). But we cannot be so heavenly focus that we are earthly no good.

“After fourteen years of Bible study focused mainly on the books of Daniel and Revelation, William Miller believed that he had uncovered the key to Daniel’s prophecies. In 1831, Miller predicted that the second coming of Jesus Christ would take place within a year of March 21, 1843. Over time, Miller’s preaching about the return (or second advent) of Christ attracted widespread interest among Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians in America. These followers numbered in the hundreds of thousands as the predicted date drew near. Some of these Americans quit their jobs and gave away their possessions, utterly convinced that Christ’s return was imminent and sure. When the anticipated time came and went without event, Miller recalculated a more specific date for Christ’s return and settled on October 22, 1844. When that date also passed without the Lord’s return, most of Miller’s followers abandoned the movement, and Miller himself retired into relative obscurity and died a few years later.”¹

I remember seeing Christian billboards stating that the world would end January 1, 2000, because of Y2K. This was supported by Tim LaHaye, Jerry Jenkins, Ed Dobson, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and Pat Robertson Twenty-two years later, we are still here. Jerry Falwell often stated that he was looking for the over taker and not the undertaker. Last year, John Hagee was again was pushing his blood moon theory of a sign of Christ’s 2021 return. With the recent Covid, and now the war against Ukraine with nuclear threat, [several are saying](#) this is really the end times. [Wikipedia lists](#) hundreds of people that predicated apocalyptic events that have not come true. Why stand ye gazing up into heaven?

Yes, the Bible does give signs of what to look for with Christ’s return. “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” Matt 24:36 There is no profit for us to spin our wheels, making assumptions and then looking foolish. To be honest, for Christians, it really does not matter when the end comes. We will be taken out of this world before the tribulation, away. Even if there is an apocalyptic event before the rapture, we have a God who will take care of us.

Yes, we should keep looking up, but it is more important that we now look inward and outward. We should share our faith of comfort, hope and salvation through our words and actions. When we cannot help physically, we can pray. We need to stop complaining about gas prices and pray for those who are fleeing and fighting. Our prayers can destroy any enemy, can heal any wound, and can meet any need.



Charles Stambaugh

“Life was filled with guns and war and everyone got tramped to the floor. I wish we all been ready. Children die, the days grew cold, a piece of bread could buy a bag of gold. I wish we all been ready. There is no time to change your mind, the Son has come and you been left behind.”

Watch [“A Thief in the Night.”](#)



[1www.gotquestions.org/Great-Disappointment.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/Great-Disappointment.html)

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