

Introduction: There were several attitudes toward the first coming of Christ.

1. Wise men sought to worship him
2. Herod sought to kill him
3. Religious leaders were ignorant & uninterested

I. Attitude of Ignorance - "willingly ignorant" II Peter 3:5 v. 8, "Be not ignorant"

- A. Those who do not know
- B. Pastors have not preached the 2nd coming
- C. People have failed to read their Bible
- D. Simple ignorance is no excuse for not being ready.

II. Attitude of Indifference

- A. Those who know but don't care
- B. "What difference does it make?"
 1. makes a difference in the destiny of civilization
 2. " " " " authority of the Scripture
 3. " " " " truthfulness of Jesus Christ
 4. " " " " kind of life you live
 5. " " " " church's program & missionary evangelism
 6. " " " " time left for the church's mission
 7. " " " " reward for the Christian

III. Attitude of Unbelief - II Peter 3:4 - "Where is the promise of his coming?"

- A. Those who refuse to believe and therefore deny doctrine
- B. Cannot blame this attitude on lack of information; they know, yet deny.
- C. Because they do not want to believe.
 1. They prefer to live a life which would be incompatible with a belief in the 2nd coming of X^t.
 2. The primary root of unbelief is not intellectual but sinful.

IV. Dread or Fearfulness - Mt. 25:25 - "I was afraid" Parable of the Talents

- A. Those who dread or fear his coming
- B. Why we should not dread his coming
- C. The only reason for fear is conscience of not being ready
- D. Some are "ashamed" at his coming - I John 2:28

V. Attitude of Readiness - II Peter 3:14

- A. Be ye therefore ready - Parable of the 10 virgins - Mt. 25
- B. How to be ready

VI. Expectancy or Watchfulness - v. 12 - "hastening the coming"

- A. Some are in a sense ready, but they are not eagerly watching & expecting his imminent return.
- B. Illustration of bride waiting anxiously for bridegroom

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