

Thus all true Christians are knit together and related to Christ who is the Head and from whom they draw their sustenance. All are needed, and all should work together.

How often we fail to realize the bond that should tie together all who truly believe in Christ.

This rapture of the church will be a very thrilling experience. It is natural to wonder how soon it will occur.

There is no question that the disciples thought that the establishment of Christ's kingdom would come very soon. This is clear from the first chapter of Acts, where it is stated that just before Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples said: "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" But Jesus told them that it was not His intention to set up the kingdom at once. They were not to know the times or the seasons; they must first witness in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and to the very ends of the earth.

As the disciples carried on this task of witnessing they constantly looked for the coming of their Lord to set up His kingdom. This expectation of His soon return was a continuous feature in the life of the church during its first three centuries.

The disciples naturally wondered how long the Lord desired them to witness before He would come back. In Colossians 1:23 Paul speaks of the Gospel as having already been preached to every creature under heaven. Yet new generations are constantly being born, and every generation needs to hear the Word.

Yesterday we noticed that if every Christian should win just one person to Christ each year, it would not be many years before all the world would be Christian. Yet it has not worked out this way. God has never promised that every member of any generation will be saved. He has ordered us to witness. We have no way of knowing how long the witnessing must continue before the body of Christ is complete. While our Lord tarries we must preach His message of salvation as widely as possible.