

Blessed be the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, forever and ever. I welcome you today to share in the spiritual blessings of the Lord. Let us turn our attention to one of the most comforting yet profound promises that Jesus gave His disciples just before He ascended into heaven. After commissioning them to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them, He concluded with these words:

Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

“...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

At first glance, these words may seem simple. They sound encouraging, almost poetic. Yet, within them lies a tremendous theological truth about the presence of Christ with His people.

If Jesus had not foreseen that His disciples would need His help, He would never have spoken those words. But He knew the road ahead would not be easy. He knew they would face persecution (John 15:18-20), sickness (James 5:14-15), rejection (Luke 6:22), confusion (John 14:26), oppression (2 Timothy 3:12), and even death (Revelation 2:10). Therefore, He assured them of His continual presence—not occasionally, but **always**—until the very end of time.

This is not just a promise of sentimental encouragement. It is rooted in the eternal truth of who Christ is—**Emmanuel, “God with us”** (Matthew 1:23). The One who came down from heaven to dwell among us (John 1:14) now promises to remain with His people forever.

Christ's Presence in Every Season

Throughout Scripture, God consistently reveals Himself as the One who never abandons His people. To Joshua, He said:

Joshua 1:9 (ESV)

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

This same assurance now finds its fulfillment in Christ's words to His disciples. His presence means He is our **encourager** when we are weary (Isaiah 40:29–31), our **healer** when we are sick (Exodus 15:26; Matthew 8:16–17), our **comforter** when we are rejected (2 Corinthians 1:3–4), our **counselor** when we are confused (John 14:26), our **defender** when we are oppressed (Psalm 91:2), our **shepherd** when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23:4), and our

protector when enemies surround us (Psalm 27:1-3).

This is why He declared with authority:

John 16:33 (NIV)

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Notice the realism here—He does not promise a life without trouble. Rather, He promises victory through His presence.

Theology of the Promise

1. **Christ's Omnipresence:** Jesus, as the eternal Son of God, is present everywhere (Psalm 139:7-10). Yet this promise is not a vague “God is everywhere” statement. It is a covenantal presence—a specific, relational commitment to be with His people.
2. **Christ's Indwelling Presence:** Through the Holy Spirit, He dwells within believers (John 14:16-17; Romans 8:9-11). The Spirit is not a substitute for Christ's presence, but the very means by which Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20).

3. **Christ's Eschatological Promise:** His presence is not temporary. It extends "to the very end of the age"—until He returns in glory (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). This promise stretches from the cross, through our present struggles, all the way to eternity.

A Word to Believers

Beloved, this truth should give us courage. Whatever trials you are facing today—be it illness, financial struggle, loneliness, persecution, or spiritual warfare—remember that Christ is beside you. He has not abandoned you. As Paul reminds us:

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This is why we can say with the psalmist:

Psalms 118:17 (NIV)

“I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.”

A Word to Unbelievers

But remember—this promise is not for everyone indiscriminately. Jesus was speaking to His disciples. If you are still living in sin, without Christ, you cannot claim this assurance. You may have wealth, health, or influence, but spiritually you remain poor, blind, and vulnerable (Revelation 3:17). Without Christ, your life is like a house built on sand (Matthew 7:26-27)—unable to withstand the storms of life or the judgment to come.

Yet the good news is this: Jesus is still knocking at the door of your heart today.

Revelation 3:20 (NIV)

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me.”

Receive Him now. Let Him transform your life. Let Him be your Shepherd, your Savior, your constant companion. Then you too will

know the peace of walking with Christ—not only in this life but for all eternity.

Conclusion

The words of Jesus in Matthew 28:20 are not merely a farewell blessing. They are the heartbeat of the gospel—the assurance that the risen Christ is alive, reigning, and walking with His people until the day He returns in glory.

So I say to you: **Take heart. Look to Jesus. Keep pressing forward. He is with you—always.**

Be richly blessed.

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