

# **Laymen's Institute**

## *Billy Graham*

### I. Introduction.

- A. Ministers need to listen to laymen.
- B. We do not have to be pessimistic about the times.

### II. We can be optimistic because of the great of Jesus Christ's return.

- A. It is becoming clear that America will not be an island paradise forever.
- B. America is in danger.
- C. The church is not the hope because the population is growing too fast.
- D. The hope is centered in a Person - the Lord Jesus Christ - and He is coming again.

### III. Something is about to happen in this world. A climactic point is coming, which is the intervention of God in history when Christ is put on the throne.

- A. This is called the blessed hope.
- B. For the sinner this will be a terrible day of judgment. For the person who has trusted in Christ as savior it will be glorious.
- C. Our time of ministry is brief, so we had better get our houses in order.

### IV. It is important that we each receive Christ as savior.

- A. Conversion is simply recognizing that one is a sinner and accepting by faith that we have failed God in a way that demands judgment.
- B. God is a God of judgment and wrath but also a God of love.
- C. It is out of love that God sent Jesus to the cross.
- D. God demands of you and me that we come to that cross by faith and receive the pardon He offers.
- E. If you trust Christ, God promises to forgive and forget the past.
- F. This does not promise that we will not have trouble. There is suffering for our faith.
- G. True turning to God is a matter of the will.

### **Application questions**

1. How can the church be optimistic in pessimistic times?

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2. What is conversion and why is it important? What is required?

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3. Have you trusted in Christ? If not, what is keeping you from doing so? If so, do you need to give your life to Christ anew? Spend some time in prayer and reflection.

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