

The Present Future

Luke 17:20-25

The Present-Future an oxymoron?

Definition: oxymoron—a figure of speech formed by combining contradicting terms.

*Many of the tensions and paradoxes in scripture can be clearly understood
if we view the future as ever Present to God.*

1. Believing is **Seeing**.

*Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation ...
because the kingdom of God is within you."* —Luke 17:20b, 21b

VS. 21, **ΕΥΤΟΣ** *en-tos'* translated "within"

The only other reference to **ΕΥΤΟΣ** in the New Testament is Matthew 23:26.

²⁵"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

—Matthew 23:25-6

*Wisdom gives us a perspective that always looks toward the future from the present and
always looks from the future to the present. It is both future-present and present-future*
—Erwin McManus in *Uprising*, 238.

2. Many today **long** to See.

*"Then he said to his disciples, "The time is coming when you will long to see one of the
days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it."* —Luke 17:22

Our culture may be described as a Longing society.

- Longing for something **more**.
- Longing for spiritual experiences.
- Longing for **real** relationships.

3. Jesus is not found in **chasing** the crowd.

“Men will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them.”

—Luke 17:23

24For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.

—Luke 17:24

By looking out there for some new thing, we neglect the promises already given.

- The Kingdom is **Here**.
- The **Future** is Now.
- God’s promises in **Christ** as for us here and now.

Application:

1. Clean 1st the **inside** of the cup.

2. Leave the **destination** in Gods hand.

3. Live in the **Present**. Duty, enjoyment, discipline, ministry opportunities.

4. Keep your focus on the **future**.

Memory Verse:

“The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation ... because the kingdom of God is within you.”

—Luke 17:20b, 21b