

the final occurrence is certain. As applied to the coming of the Lord, Imminency consists of three things:

- (1) the certainty that He may come at any moment,
- (2) the uncertainty of the time of that arrival,
- (3) the fact that no prophesied event stands between the believer and that hour.

B. Imminency and the Scriptural Teachings and Emphases

1. In current discussions about Christ's Coming, four basic conceptions of imminency are used:

- (a) Unconditional Imminency
- (b) Delayed Imminency
- (c) Subsequent Imminency
- (d) Generational Imminency

What does each of these conceptions of imminency hold?

- a. Unconditional Imminency holds that from Christ's ascension to His Second Coming His Return is absolutely imminent, which means that it could occur at any time, and that there is no identifiable event that must precede His coming.

(Incidentally, this conception could fit with some form of Amillennialism and some form of Premillennialism. It could not fit with Postmillennialism.)

- b. Delayed Imminency holds that, following Christ's ascension, there was an indeterminate period of delay during which certain predictions Christ made were fulfilled. During this period Christ's Return was relatively imminent, which means that it could have occurred at any time following the completion of the predicted set of events (i.e., His coming was relative to those events). There are at least four such events that necessitated a brief period of delay:
 - (a) The sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 1:4-5)
 - (b) Peter's death by execution (John 21:18-19)
 - (c) The destruction of Jerusalem (Luke 19:43-44)
 - (d) The writing of the books of the New Testament (John 16:12-13)

Following this relatively brief period of delay (which runs from A.D. 29 or 30 to 95 or 100 -- the Apostolic Age), Christ's Return is absolutely imminent.

- c. Subsequent Imminency holds that, following Christ's ascension, there is an indeterminate period during which Christ's Return is relatively imminent. This period of relative imminency comes to an end at the Tribulation period, after which there is a brief period of absolute imminency. Thus Christ's coming is relative to the completion of the