

Living Today In Light Of The Future (pt. 2)

Scripture: **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**

Series: **Living Today In Light Of The Future**

Sunday, September 11, 2016



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

The study of the last things (eschatology) is not an optional piece of Christian information that you can pursue like a hobby. It is an essential part of our faith and indeed the gospel. **Without the doctrine of Christ's return, your faith will remain weak and incomplete.**

Corraborating Texts

I Corinthians 11:26; I Corinthians 15:3-8; I John 3:2-3; I Philippians 3:20; I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Discussion Questions

1. What is eschatology? What has been your experience with this doctrine so far (e.g. love it, hate it, annoying, life giving, confusing, etc.)?
2. Review the context of I Thessalonians. Among other things, Paul was writing to encourage the church at Thessalonica who was suffering and grieving the loss of some members. They were questioning whether or not those who had died (fallen asleep) would be able to experience Christ's return. How does Paul intend to encourage the believers with the truth of Christ's return? How can we gain similar comfort and encouragement?
3. How should the truth of Christ's return affect your attitude and actions day-to-day? Read I Corinthians 11:26. When you partake in the Lord's Supper, are you reminded of the hope we have in Christ's return?
4. Pastor Joe explained different reasons why we need this doctrine as well as the importance of Christ's actual return. Sin plagues us; death blinds us; evil oppresses us. If someone were to ask you why you have hope despite the trouble our world is in (e.g 9/11, ISIS, injustice, sin), what would be your answer? Have you come to grips with how strange that is?
5. Should our belief in Christ's physical return influence how discuss the good news of Christ with those who don't believe? If yes, how so?
6. God's presence (the Spirit) has already reentered his temple (the church), but the inheritance promised to Abraham's family has not yet fully come until Christ comes to reign in the new earth. How should we live in the meantime? Psalm 130 provides an excellent poetic depiction of one who has experienced the forgiveness of God but awaits final redemption/salvation. John 3 gives a good instruction on how to live as we wait for Christ to appear.