

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ Was there a new or surprising idea in this message? Was there something that helped clear up a Biblical truth for you? Was there something that “fogged up” a truth that you’d like to understand better?
- ❖ Many Christians feel fearful when they think about or study about the coming of Jesus and the end of the world. Why do you think this is so? How can we move from fear to hope about this? What scriptures from this message do that for you? What does the fact that Jesus is preparing a place for you communicate to you about his love for you?
- ❖ How can thinking about the fact that Jesus is coming at any moment change the way you face situations in your life? Does knowing that this world will not last change your attitude about a specific material thing, human institution, problem or struggle you’re dealing with?
- ❖ Review the attitudes Pastor Steve pointed out from the Bible toward the return of Jesus. Which of these holds a special challenge for you right now?
- ❖ This ten-week series has covered some important doctrines of Christianity: Creation; Creatures; Scripture; The person of Christ; The Holy Spirit; God’s work of salvation; Grace; Judgment; the Church; and Christ’s return. Is there a way your faith became stronger as you learned more about one of these areas?

Bible Versions used: **KJV**-King James; **NKJV**-New King James; **NIV**-New International; **NCV**-New Century; **TLB**-Living Bible; **NLT**-New Living Translation; **Msg**-The Message; **GW**-God’s Word; **TEV**-Today’s English; **CEV**-Contemporary English; **NAS** - New American Standard; **NJB**-New Jerusalem Bible; **HCSB**-Holman Christian Standard; **Phi**-Phillips Translation; **Amp**-Amplified Bible; **NRSV**-New Revised Standard

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FOUNDATIONS

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“Jesus is Coming Again”

Hebrews 9:28 (NIV) *Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

John 14:1-3 (NLT) *"Don't be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."*

Why Christ is coming back

➡ To bring the _____.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT) *Let me tell you a wonderful secret God has revealed to us. Not all of us will die, but we will all be transformed. It will happen in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, the Christians who have died will be raised with transformed bodies. And then we who are living will be transformed so that we will never die. For our perishable earthly bodies must be transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NLT) *The Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever.*

➡ To wrap up _____.

➡ To call _____.

Revelation 1:7 (NIV) *Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him.*

➡ To begin _____.

Titus 2:13 (NIV) *We wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

When will Christ return?

2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13 (NIV) *There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God -- having a form of godliness but denying its power... evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

Acts 1:6-8 (NIV) *They asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Matthew 24:14 (NLT) *"The Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then, finally, the end will come."*

"Be-Attitudes" for believers

1. Be _____.

Mark 13:32-33, 36 (NIV) *"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come...If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping."*

1 Peter 1:13; 4:7 (NIV) *Prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.... The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.*

2. Be _____.

James 5:7-8 (NIV) *Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.*

3. Be _____ with him.

2 Peter 3:11-12 (NIV) *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.*

1 John 2:28 (MSG) *And now, children, stay with Christ. Live deeply in Christ. Then we'll be ready for him when he appears, ready to receive him with open arms, with no cause for red-faced guilt or lame excuses when he arrives.*

4. Be _____.

2 Timothy 4:8 (NLT) *And now the prize awaits me -- the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his glorious return.*

For further study check out **Knowing What You Believe Class: "What You Should Know About the End of Time"** (Visit Resources Desk in Lobby)

End Times Bible Terms and Christian Views of Them

The Rapture – The "snatching up" of Christ's people from earth that takes place at his return. Some believe this will occur 7 years before the end of earth history, others understand it to occur at the return of Christ to earth at the end of history.

The Resurrection – The raising of people from death when Christ comes again. This is when believers will receive a transformed, "glorified," eternal body.

The Tribulation – Some believe this to be the last 7-years of earth history before Christ's final return, in which evil is unleashed on earth, and God's judgments begin to be poured out on the evil. Others see this as the opposition, pressure, and persecution that the righteous experience throughout history until the return of Christ.

The Anti-Christ; 666; The Man of Sin, The Beast – Viewed by some as a false Messiah, who is evil incarnate, who appears during the 7 year period of tribulation. He seeks to be worshiped as God, and marks those who are loyal to him with 666. Others view him as a type of tyrannical leaders throughout history, and even individuals, to seek self-exaltation even above God.

The 144,000 – Some understand this to symbolize the conversion of the 12 tribes of Israel to Christ during the 7 year tribulation, while others believe it symbolizes those whom God redeems from earth for his eternal kingdom.

The Millennium - A 1,000 year period of time some believe will be when Christ will rule from Jerusalem as King over all the earth after his return, before the time of final judgment. Others view this as a symbol of the spiritual reign of Christ in the lives of his redeemed people, rather than a literal, political Kingdom of Christ on earth.

Armageddon – The final battle that forces of evil wage against Christ. Some see this as happening at the end of the 1,000 year Kingdom period, others see it as happening at the end of the 7 year period of tribulation when Christ returns to earth, while yet others see it as a symbol of the ongoing influence of evil in the world, to be overcome finally by Christ's conquering return. Pop culture often speaks of this as the final, destructive battle between super-powers that brings wide-spread annihilation.