



Last week we kicked off a new series we're simply calling, Heaven. Today we're talking about Christ's promised return. Specifically, we want to consider the question, "When will Jesus return?" Is there a Bible passage that answers this question? The answer is yes, and we turn to 1 Thessalonians 4 to answer that question and learn about our future as followers of Christ.

Big Idea: Jesus Christ will return to the earth and we will be changed

Discussion Questions

1. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, "end times"? Which of the following categories do you fall into regarding that topic: (1) pumped, (2) puzzled, or (3) petrified? Why?
2. What's the difference between first-tier doctrines and second-tier doctrines? What are some examples of each tier? Why is it important to differentiate between these two tiers?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

3. Grief is an unavoidable part of life. How does the Bible's honesty regarding the reality of grief give us a path to move through it in a healthy way? How does knowing that God has compassion towards us in our pain invite us into a deeper walk with Him?
4. What does it mean that we can grieve with hope? How does Paul explain this possibility in verses 13-15? What does it look like for grief and hope to run parallel to one another?
5. How does Paul describe the return of Christ in verses 16-18? How do you imagine this moment will be? How can the truth regarding Christ's second coming serve as an encouragement to us as we face various trials in this life?
6. How would you compare and contrast the two ways to view this passage referred to as "The Rapture" and "The Return"? How does Jesus unite us despite our potential differences regarding these matters?
7. Scripture promises that one day, we will receive new bodies when Christ returns, bodies that won't deal with sickness or suffering of any kind. How does this give you hope today?
8. What would Jesus want you to walk away believing from today's study?