



Doctrine Discussion Guide

Week 15 | End Times

What is your emotional response when you think about the end times? Why do you feel that way when you consider the end?

Read the CF Statement of Belief

We believe in the imminent, visible, and personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His literal reign of 1,000 years on earth. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 22:20**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the eternal blessedness of the saved in a literal heaven, and the eternal punishment of the lost in a literal hell. **Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46**

Theological Truths

Visit www.cfdowningtown.com/doctrine to look at the notes from this week's sermon, Week 15, End Times. Specifically look at the two charts showing the Timeline of the End Times. Read the supporting verses from Daniel, Matthew, and Revelation.

- Why is it important for us to know what is coming?
- What can we do to affect this timeline?
- Do we know when this will happen? (see Matthew 24:36)
- What ought we do in light of what is to come? (consider Matthew 28:18-20)

Passages for Study

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Paul mentions two problems for these believers when it comes to what happens at the return of Christ: (1) Being uninformed and (2) grieving without hope.

- Paul wants to inform these believers. What does he say will happen to believers who have died when Jesus returns? What about those who are still alive when he returns?
- What is at the root of grief? How is grief for believers different than it is for non-believers?
- Read Acts 1:9-11 How is this passage in 1 Thessalonians a fulfillment of what is prophesied in Acts?
- How do you find encouragement in these promises?

2 Peter 3:8-13

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- What is God's perspective on time?
- When Peter wrote this, it had only been around 30 years after the death and resurrection of Christ. How are the truths of this passage even more important to us today?
- Why has the Lord waited so long to come again?
- Describe in your own words the Day of the Lord.
- What should be our response in light of the coming of the Day of the Lord?
- What is the promise for those who believe in Jesus?

Read the Big Idea:

Jesus will return someday to resurrect those who believe in him, bring judgement upon those who are in rebellion against him, and consummate all things under his rule and authority.

We must remain faithful to his call and the teachings of Scripture. We must live expectantly and with the hope of his coming. We must follow his commands to preach the gospel to a dying world, that more would be able to enter his eternal Kingdom.