

ARE WE IN END TIMES?

“The Day of the Lord”

Scripture Reading: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-6

-) **SLIDE 7-8**. Scripture reading.
-) **SLIDE 9**. Today’s message is titled, “*The Day of the Lord*.”
-) **SLIDE 10**. I want to refresh your memory to a word we need to know and remember. That word is Eschatology. Eschatology is a branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of humankind. Since we will be talking about end times events in this series, we could say this is a sermon series on eschatology.
-) **SLIDE 11**. Last week I said we would be looking at this topic in three ways: 1) the different views of end times prophecy, 2) the signs we need to be looking for, and 3) how we need to respond in the event that these are indeed end times we are witnessing.
-) We covered our Christian response last Sunday. Do we submit to fear, or do we submit to the Father? Regardless if we are in end times or not, we should never have a heart of fear. The true Christian has been adopted into the family of God.
-) For now, I want to touch briefly on the different eschatological views. There are four main eschatological views in church circles today. Many different mainline protestant denominations are locked into a certain view. Many churches have no specific view as part of their teaching.
-) And there will always be those who will say if you do not agree with them and their view you are not a Christian and are on your way to hell. Eschatology is not a hill to die on. We can agree to disagree. But in the end, someone will be right.

-) But the different interpretations of end times prophecy is not today's topic. For more on the different eschatological views, come back and join us for future messages. I promise I will eventually get around to that.
-) But there is one truth, one ingredient, one event that each view will agree on and is the most critical and wonderful part of their eschatology. Jesus Christ will return again to this planet. It is what Christians call the "*Second Coming of Christ*" or "*The Day of the Lord.*" Let's search the Scriptures and see what the Bible teaches about the certainty of this event.
-) **SLIDE 12.** The **WORLD** can be certain of the return of Jesus Christ. I purposely said "*the world*" because those who are scoffers about the return of Jesus or those who do not believe in Jesus need to understand that their scoffing or disbelief does not nullify the truth of the Word of God. More on this later.
-) **SLIDE 13.** JOHN 14:1-3. The return of Jesus is confirmed by Jesus Himself.
-) **SLIDE 14.** ACTS 1:9-11. The return of Jesus is confirmed by two angels and those who saw Him ascend.
-) The certainty of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (the Day of the Lord) is a fundamental Christian belief. It's a belief every Christians must understand as a Biblical truth. Personally, I question the salvation of one who does not subscribe to this.
-) **SLIDE 15.** The next obvious question is this: When will all this take place? Does anyone know the exact time of Christ's return? We can be certain that we do not know the **DAY** or the **HOUR** of the return of Jesus Christ.
-) **SLIDE 16.** MATT 24:36. "*But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*" In MATT 24:42 Jesus says, "*Therefore keep watch because you do not know what day your Lord will come.*" We must conclude that no one knows or ever will know.

-) **SLIDE 17.** Two more verses I want to point out. In REV 22:7 Jesus says this, "*And behold, I am coming quickly!*" And in verse 20 Jesus again says, "*Yes, I am coming quickly.*"
-) **SLIDE 18.** I find these two lines rather interesting. Jesus says He is coming "*quickly.*" The word "*quickly*" could take on two different connotations. "*Quickly*" could mean a measure of time such as "*soon.*" Some Bible translations actually use the word "*soon*" instead of the word "*quickly.*" If we say, "*He'll be here quickly*" then we think of that as a measure of time.
-) But the word "*quickly*" could also mean "*without notice.*" We could say, "*That speeding car came up on me quickly*" which gives us the thought that the car came upon without notice. It just appeared. I like that definition better because it helps us identify another truth about the return of Jesus.
-) **SLIDE 19.** The return of Jesus Christ will be **UNEXPECTED.**
-) In MATT 24:44 Jesus says, "*For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.*" And Paul tells us in 1THESS 5:2 that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. Thieves never show up when you expect them.
-) **SLIDE 20.** Jesus tells us in MATT 24:37-39: "*For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.*"
-) The day Jesus returns will be just another ordinary day. Just like 9/11/01. His return will be unexpected.
-) **SLIDE 21.** The return of Jesus Christ will be both **VISIBLE** and **AUDIBLE.**

-) **SLIDE 22.** In LUKE 21:27 Jesus says this: "*Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*" Another Scripture of His visible return comes from REV 1:7: "*Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So, it is to be. Amen.*"
-) **SLIDE 23.** And audible. We will hear His return. 1THESS 4:16 tells us "*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*" The return of Jesus Christ will be unmistakable. One more point.
-) **SLIDE 24.** Everyone is **WARNED** to be ready for the return of Jesus Christ.
-) **SLIDE 25.** In LUKE 12:39-40, Jesus warns the people (the crowd) to be ready because He will return at an hour we do not expect Him to come. A general warning to all people.
-) **SLIDE 26.** Unbelievers are warned to be right with Christ. Read MATT 25:11-12. Parable of ten virgins. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 27.** 1 THESS 5:4-6. Believers are encouraged to be alert and sober and to always be in anticipation of His return.
-) **SLIDE 28.** So, let's conclude what we have learned here this morning about the day of the Lord. It is a certainty that Jesus will return. We do not know when that will occur. But when He does it will come at a time the world does not expect Him and His return will be visible and audible. Unbelievers are warned to be ready by being right with Jesus. Believers are encouraged to be alert and sober.
-) **SLIDE 29.** I want to end with this great Scripture text from the Book of HEBREWS 9:27,28. Read.
-) Jesus came the first time around 2,000 years ago. He will come back. He promises He will on the Day of the Lord.

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