

The End of the World: Hope or Despair?

How the 2nd Coming of Christ Can Fill our Hearts with Hope
August 21, 2022

Main idea: The point of life is to glorify God and do what honors Him. By daily honoring God through our lives, we will be prepared for the great day when Christ returns and ushers us into His eternal kingdom.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain 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 shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

No matter how bad it gets, Christ will return to deliver all believers from the wrath He will unleash upon the unbelieving.

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

1Thessalonians 5:9

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Revelation 3:10

10 Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

1Corinthians 15:50-54

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory.

Revelation 1:7

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.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

2 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

2 Thessalonians 3:6-7

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, No matter how bad it gets, Christ will return to deliver all believers from the wrath He will unleash upon the unbelieving.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

5 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

Christ did not tell us when He would return instead He called us to prepare for His return.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Prepare for Christ's return by walking in His light and avoiding the darkness that traps people in sin.

The point of life is to glorify God and do what honors Him. By daily honoring God through our lives, we will be prepared for the great day when Christ returns and ushers us into His eternal kingdom.

Principles:

- God does not want us to be afraid or ignorant about the 2nd coming of Christ. When Christ returns for His church all believers dead or alive will receive their glorified bodies and will be saved from God's wrath.
- Whether we live or die before Christ returns, we have been called to reveal the light of Christ rather than add to the darkness of this world.

Applications for overcomers:

- Comfort hurting people with the hope of the Gospel not just our sentiments.
- Is your heart filled with overcoming hope or despair?