

Group Questions – What's the Deal with 2020?

Pastor Nate shared a long list of everything that has happened in 2020

What has been the biggest SURPRISE to you in 2020?

What has been the biggest CHALLENGE to you in 2020?

Why might some people think these events signal the end of the world?

The band R.E.M. sang a song years ago that had the line...

"It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine."

When you think about the END OF THE WORLD... how do you feel?

Read – 2 Peter 3:8-15

What does Peter say Christians should be LOOKING FORWARD to?

Some people think Christians are "fatalists" because of our desire to see the end of this world. **FATALIST** = pessimistic, negative, expecting something bad.

Why do you think looking forward to the end of the world is NOT fatalist?

Pastor Nate shared how we, as followers of Jesus are not focused on something negative, but something positive.

Read – 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 - *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 by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

What is the positive thing the apostle Paul says we should be focused on?

How does the thought that Jesus is coming to get you give you COMFORT?

Pastor Nate shared how every prophecy has been fulfilled, that needs to be fulfilled, before Jesus comes and gets His followers.

How can the understanding... Jesus could come get us at any moment... help us handle the challenges we face in this life?

Read – Matthew 24:6-8 - *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

What is the warning Jesus gave us in these verses in Matthew?

Why do you think Jesus wanted us to know that these types of events do not necessarily show that the end is near?

Read – Psalm 13:1-2 - *O LORD, how long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way? How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart every day? How long will my enemy have the upper hand?*

What was David's attitude in these verses?

Do you think David was right or wrong to feel that way?

Have you ever felt abandoned by God? What was the situation?

How can it help us to know that David felt the same way?

Read – Isaiah 43:1-2 - *But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.*

What do these verses say about whether or not we will face challenges?

Read – Isaiah 41:10 - *Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.*

Read – Psalm 23:4 - *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

How can the truth in these verses help us when we feel abandoned by God?