

Summary

This sermon opens a four-week series called "Living in the Light of Eternity," focused on end times. The pastor shares several reasons he believes Jesus is coming soon, including the rise of anti-Semitism, the moral decline described in 2 Timothy, and the explosive global spread of the gospel through tools like the YouVersion Bible app. Rather than focusing on predicting the exact timing of end times events, the pastor emphasizes that preparing for Christ's return is far more important than predicting it. Drawing from Revelation 3:1-3, a letter to the Church of Sardis, the pastor outlines five practical steps to get ready for the Rapture: (1) Get Real about where you truly stand spiritually, (2) Wake Up to the urgency of the moment, (3) Steady Yourself by building on whatever spiritual habits still remain, (4) Come Back to your first love and commitment to Jesus, and (5) Turn to Jesus through genuine repentance and surrender. The sermon closes with a passionate call for every person to examine whether they are truly ready for Christ's return.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. As we gather together, we ask that You would quiet the noise of our daily lives and help us truly hear what You want to speak to each of us. Give us the courage to be honest with ourselves and with You. May this time together not just be a discussion, but a moment where You move in our hearts. We surrender our assumptions, our pride, and our distractions to You right now. Speak, Lord, for we are listening. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you were really passionate about when you first became a Christian that you wish you still did as consistently today?

Key Verses

- Revelation 3:1-3
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5
- Matthew 24:14
- Romans 13:11

- Psalm 139:23-24
- Acts 3:19
- Zechariah 12:2-3

Questions

- The pastor said, 'Predicting the end times is not nearly as important as preparing for them.' Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
- In Revelation 3:1, Jesus tells the Church of Sardis they have a reputation for being alive but are actually dead. What do you think it looks like for a person or a church to have that kind of reputation today?
- The pastor described the 'heart as a mirror, not a map,' meaning it shows you who you are rather than where you should go. How does that idea challenge the popular advice to 'follow your heart'?
- David's prayer in Psalm 139:23-24 asks God to search His heart and point out anything offensive. How difficult would it be for you to pray that prayer sincerely, and what might hold you back?
- The pastor talked about 'strengthening what little remains,' meaning building on the one spiritual habit you still have even when others have faded. What is one spiritual practice in your life right now that you could build on?
- Have you ever felt like you drifted away from your first love for Jesus, similar to what is described in Revelation 2:4-5? What caused that drift, and what helped you (or could help you) return?
- The pastor mentioned that making Jesus your Savior is one thing, but making Him Lord means surrendering control entirely. What is one area of your life where you find it hardest to let God be in control?
- The sermon highlighted rising anti-Semitism, widespread moral decline, and the global spread of the gospel as signs that Jesus may be returning soon. How does awareness of these signs affect the way you live your daily life?

Life Application

This week, pray David's prayer from Psalm 139:23-24 every morning. Ask God to search your heart, reveal anything that is not right, and show you one specific area where you need to get real, wake up, or return to Him. Then take one concrete step in response to what He shows you, whether that is reconnecting with a church community, restarting a prayer habit, having an honest conversation with someone, or simply surrendering a worry or struggle to God out loud.

Key Takeaways

- Preparing for Christ's return is more urgent and more important than debating the exact timing or sequence of end times events.
- The Church of Sardis had a reputation for spiritual life but was actually spiritually dead, which is a warning against performing religion without genuine heart transformation.
- Getting ready for the Rapture involves five steps rooted in Revelation 3:1-3: get real, wake up, steady yourself, come back, and turn to Jesus.
- The heart is a mirror that reveals who you are, not a map to follow. Surrendering to God's search of your heart is essential to genuine spiritual health.
- No matter how far someone has drifted, God's invitation is always to come back, repent, and turn to Him again, and that return can begin right now.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word that does not change. We confess that it is easy to look alive on the outside while something is fading on the inside. Tonight we ask You to search our hearts the way David asked You to search his. Show us where we have been pretending, where we have been asleep, and where we have drifted from our first love for You. Give us the courage to get real, the humility to come back, and the faith to surrender every part of our lives to You as both Savior and Lord. We do not know the day or the hour, but we want to be ready. Make us ready, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.