

Fearless
The Hope of the Believer
March 19, 2023

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also **believe that when Jesus returns**, God will **bring back with him the believers who have died**. We tell you this directly from the Lord: **We** who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. **First, the believers who have died will rise** from their graves. Then, **together with them**, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be **caught up** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be **with the Lord forever**. So **encourage each other with these words**.

Are we living in the last days?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Now, brothers and sisters, **about times and dates** we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as **labor pains on a pregnant woman**, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are **not in darkness** so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but **let us be awake and sober**. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since **we belong to the day**, let us be sober, **putting on faith and love as a breastplate**, and the **hope of salvation as a helmet**. For God did not appoint us to **suffer wrath but to receive salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may **live together with him**. Therefore **encourage one another and build each other up**, just as in fact you are doing.

What are some of the signs of the end of times?

- ✓ Israel becoming a _____.

Isaiah 11:11-12 In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a **second time** to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people...He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.

Zechariah 12:3 On that day I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. All the nations will gather against it to try to move it, but they will only hurt themselves.

Fearless
The Hope of the Believer
March 19, 2023

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also **believe that when Jesus returns**, God will **bring back with him the believers who have died**. We tell you this directly from the Lord: **We** who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. **First, the believers who have died will rise** from their graves. Then, **together with them**, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be **caught up** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be **with the Lord forever**. So **encourage each other with these words**.

Are we living in the last days?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Now, brothers and sisters, **about times and dates** we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as **labor pains on a pregnant woman**, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are **not in darkness** so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but **let us be awake and sober**. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since **we belong to the day**, let us be sober, **putting on faith and love as a breastplate**, and the **hope of salvation as a helmet**. For God did not appoint us to **suffer wrath but to receive salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may **live together with him**. Therefore **encourage one another and build each other up**, just as in fact you are doing.

What are some of the signs of the end of times?

- ✓ Israel becoming a _____.

Isaiah 11:11-12 In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a **second time** to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people...He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.

Zechariah 12:3 On that day I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. All the nations will gather against it to try to move it, but they will only hurt themselves.

- ✓ Increase of wickedness and a _____ away.

Matthew 24:9-13 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and **you will be hated** by all nations because of me. At that time **many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other**, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the **increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold**, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

- ✓ Increase of the _____ spreading.

Matthew 24:14 “And this **gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world** as a testimony to **all nations**, and then the end will come.”

1970 = _____ billion Christians

2020 = _____ billion Christians

1990: _____ of world in extreme poverty

2017: _____ of world in extreme poverty

2022: _____ of world in extreme poverty

What is our response?

1. We should be _____ with God.

1 Peter 4:7 The **end of all things is near**, therefore be **clear minded** and **self-controlled** so that you can **pray**.

2. We should rely on _____ relationships.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may **spur one another on** toward love and good deeds, **not giving up meeting together**, as some are in the **habit of doing**, but **encouraging one another**—and all the more as you see the **Day** approaching.

3. We should do everything we can to make a _____.

1 Peter 4:10-11 Each one should **use whatever gift** he has received to **serve others**, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, **so that in all things God may be praised** through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Walk Away: As believers we do not have to fear death or the end of times, because God is excited about us living _____ Him forever. It’s a _____ story not a horror story.

- ✓ Increase of wickedness and a _____ away.

Matthew 24:9-13 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and **you will be hated** by all nations because of me. At that time **many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other**, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the **increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold**, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

- ✓ Increase of the _____ spreading.

Matthew 24:14 “And this **gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world** as a testimony to **all nations**, and then the end will come.”

1970 = _____ billion Christians

2020 = _____ billion Christians

1990: _____ of world in extreme poverty

2017: _____ of world in extreme poverty

2022: _____ of world in extreme poverty

What is our response?

1. We should be _____ with God.

1 Peter 4:7 The **end of all things is near**, therefore be **clear minded** and **self-controlled** so that you can **pray**.

2. We should rely on _____ relationships.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may **spur one another on** toward love and good deeds, **not giving up meeting together**, as some are in the **habit of doing**, but **encouraging one another**—and all the more as you see the **Day** approaching.

3. We should do everything we can to make a _____.

1 Peter 4:10-11 Each one should **use whatever gift** he has received to **serve others**, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, **so that in all things God may be praised** through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Walk Away: As believers we do not have to fear death or the end of times, because God is excited about us living _____ Him forever. It’s a _____ story not a horror story.