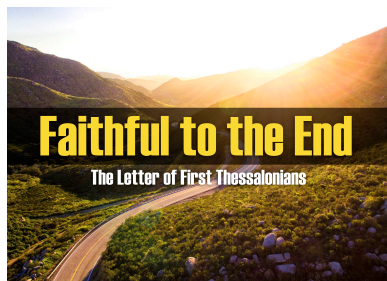


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Ready for the Return of Christ

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
March 7, 2021



How do we live faithfully as we anticipate the glorious return of Jesus Christ?

1Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NLT) 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. ¹⁴For 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.

- **Because Christ rose from the dead believers don't need to fear death.**

1 Corinthians 15: 51-53 (NLT) But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵²It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

1Thessalonians 4:15-18 (NLT) 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then, 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. ¹⁸So encourage each other with these words.

Acts 1:10-11

- **Jesus is coming back again and all believers will be with him forever.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 (NLT) Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. ²For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. ³When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labour pains begin. And there will be no escape. ⁴But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night.

- **Christ's return will be unexpected but believers shouldn't be caught off guard.**

Matthew 24:42-44

How should we live as we wait for the return of Jesus Christ?

1 Thessalonians 5:6-11 (NLT) So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. ⁷Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. ⁸But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armour of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation. ⁹For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. ¹⁰Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. ¹¹So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Big Idea: Live ready for the return of Christ.

- **We stay alert.**

- **We live in the "light".**

- **We prioritize Christ and His Kingdom.** Matthew 24:45-51

- **We wait with hope.**

Hebrews 9:27-28 (NLT) And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Ready for the Return of Christ
#5 of 7 - March 7, 2021**

- 1) What stood out to you in this message and what questions did it raise?
- 2) Share about a time when you anticipated the arrival of someone. What was that experience like for you? How does this compare with the arrival of Jesus as King?
- 3) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-53. What do these passages tell us about the resurrection? How does this encourage you? What questions does this raise for you?
- 4) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 and 5:1-5. Describe the events of the arrival of Jesus. Read Matthew 24:26-51. What similarities and differences do you see in these two accounts?
- 5) In what way is the arrival of Jesus unexpected? In what way should believers be ready for the coming of Christ? How ready do you feel and why?
- 6) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:6-11. What directives does Paul give us to ensure we “live ready” for the return of Jesus? Which aspect seems most significant for you today and why?
- 7) What action step is God asking you to take to “live ready”? Write down one for each aspect.
 - Stay alert.
 - Live in the “light”.
 - Prioritize Christ and His Kingdom.
 - Wait with hope.
- 8) Read Hebrews 9:27-28. How does this passage challenge and/or encourage you today? What next step is God asking you to take?



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