

IS JESUS RETURNING SOON?

Stand Alone Sermon

April 20th & 21st, 2024

Pastor Kerry Shook

Life Group Questions:

1. What stuck out to you in **1 Corinthians 15:51-58**?
2. How are you throwing yourself into the work of your master?
3. What are your feelings about when Jesus is coming?
4. What are you afraid of while we are in the end times?

“But let me tell you something wonderful, a mystery I’ll probably never fully understand. We’re not all going to die—but we are all going to be changed. You hear a blast to end all blasts from a trumpet, and in the time that you look up and blink your eyes—it’s over. On signal from that trumpet from heaven, the dead will be up and out of their graves, beyond the reach of death, never to die again. At the same moment and in the same way, we’ll all be changed. In the resurrection scheme of things, this has to happen: everything perishable taken off the shelves and replaced by the imperishable, this mortal replaced by the immortal. Then the saying will come true: Death swallowed by triumphant Life! Who got the last word, oh, Death? Oh, Death, who’s afraid of you now? It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power. But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God! With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don’t hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for Him is a waste of time or effort.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (MSG)

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NIV)

“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven...”

1 Thessalonians 4:16a (NIV)

“In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet...”

1 Corinthians 15:52 (NIV)

“...the dead in Christ will rise first...”

1 Thessalonians 4:16c (NIV)

“After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NIV)

“For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again.”

Matthew 24:21 (NASB)

“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”

Revelation 3:10 (NIV)

“For many will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.”

Matthew 24:5-8 (NIV)

“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.”

Matthew 24:14 (NIV)

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.”

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)

Live With No Fear

“Death swallowed by triumphant life! Who got the last word, oh, Death? Oh, Death, who’s afraid of you now?”

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 (MSC)

Love With No Limits

“Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you’ve got, be resolute, and love without stopping.”

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (MSG)

Leave With No Regrets

“Jesus said, “No procrastination. No backward looks. You can’t put God’s kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day.””

Luke 9:62 (MSG)