

THE END MIGHT BE NEAR, BUT IT'S NOT HERE!

There's Nothing Greater Bible Study
Week 12

Scripture Lesson

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, **even unto the end of the world**. Amen (St. Matthew 28:16–20, KJV).

I. Introduction - Everybody wants to know when the end will be...

A. Narrative:

1. In the fall of 2025, a religious Christian group in Africa had all of the world looking towards the sky for Jesus Christ to return. It was an Internet based phenomenon that had been pronounced and articulated by the prophets of their culture. With great passion and enthusiasm, they told the world that this would be the day, this would be the time, and this would be the hour!

2. With great enthusiasm, they convinced many people that the return of Jesus Christ would happen on that exact date. For those who study the scriptures, you know well that Jesus Christ taught us that no man would know the day or the hour that he would return. With this in mind, there is a radical falsehood and a complete truism. Here was the falsehood. No one will know when Jesus is going to return. Here is the truism one of these days he will indeed come back!

3. Some believers spend more time debating the nearness of the end than advancing the work of the Kingdom. But Jesus never called His church to speculate, He called it to serve. Prophecy was never given to paralyze the church; it was given to prepare it. When believers become overly consumed with timelines, signs, and speculation, the mission can quietly slip into neglect.

4. The reality that time is limited should not create fear, it should create focus. Every day that Jesus delays His return is not wasted time; it is grace time. It is time God has given for the gospel to be shared, disciples to be made, and lives to be

saved. To sit idle while time remains is to misunderstand the patience of God and the urgency of the mission.

5. There is no time to waste. Souls are still searching, families are still broken, and the world is still in need of hope. Churches must resist comfort-driven ministry and return to commission-driven obedience. Individual believers must stop waiting for the “perfect moment” and start moving in faithful obedience now. As long as it is called today, there is work to be done. When the end comes, the work will stop, but until then, the call is clear: keep working.

B. Analysis of the Text

1. Jesus makes it clear that His presence will remain with His people until the end of the age, but He does not say the work stops before then. In fact, the promise of His continued presence assumes continued responsibility. As long as time remains, the mission remains. The end may be near, but it is not here, and until it arrives, the Great Commission must be pursued with urgency and faithfulness.

2. The Lord teaches that awareness of the end should never lead to inactivity. Instead, it should produce diligence. Jesus calls His followers to work while there is still opportunity, to teach, to baptize, and to disciple while doors remain open and hearts are still reachable. Time is not something to be feared; it is something to be stewarded.

3. This truth presses believers to reject delay, distraction, and defeat. The Kingdom of God advances through obedient action, not passive waiting. As long as Jesus has not returned, there is work to be done! His presence empowers the mission, and His patience provides time for repentance and growth. The window remains open, but it will not remain open forever.

C. Inclusion: The devil will use any and everything to distract, derail, deceive and distort the real effort of the Lord’s Church from completing the Great Commission that the Lord has empowered us here to fulfill. Our enemy is sneaky, conniving, cunning, crafty, and convincing.

1. **He convinces the church that popularity is more important than purity.**

The church begins to chase applause instead of holiness.

2. **He persuades believers that comfort is better than carrying the cross.**

Discipleship becomes convenient instead of costly.

3. **He substitutes emotional experiences for genuine spiritual transformation.**

People feel something on Sunday but never become someone by Monday.

4. **He replaces the authority of Scripture with the opinions of culture.**

When culture becomes the compass, Christ is no longer the Captain.

5. **He convinces Christians that activity is the same as intimacy with God.**

Busy hands often hide barren hearts.

6. **He promotes division where God desires unity.**

He whispers offense, nurtures bitterness, and celebrates broken fellowship.

7. **He magnifies temporary things until eternal things disappear from view.**

The church becomes consumed with earthly success while neglecting heavenly reward.

8. **He convinces believers that compromise is compassion.**

Truth is softened until sin is no longer called sin.

9. **He whispers that tomorrow is always the right time to obey God.**

Delayed obedience eventually becomes practiced disobedience.

10. **He causes the church to forget who she really is.**

When the church forgets she is the Bride of Christ, the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Ghost, and the light of the world, she begins living beneath her divine calling.

11. **He has the church so worried when time will end that it never begins to do what He has called us to do.**

D. Parallel and Proposition

1. Local assemblies in every city are busy doing everything but the main thing. In fact, most churches have become cruise ships filled with entertainment to keep happy as long as the ship stays full. When the truth of the matter is what the Lord has called us to be is a fishing boat throwing out the lifeline to as many lost sinners as we can find.
2. With this in mind, what can we do that would please our Lord before He returns? What can we do that would make the God we serve smile upon us as we wait for His promised return?

II. STAY WITH THE MESSAGE THAT GRACE IS STILL AMAZING

A. Practical Idea-The world may constantly reinvent its opinions, but God's people must never reinvent God's message, because the Gospel that saved the first sinner is still saving until we get to the last sinner. Stay with the grace of God!

B. Principle from the Passage

1. Jesus closes His earthly ministry by commanding His disciples to "teach all nations...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

2. The emphasis is not upon creating a new message but faithfully transmitting His message. The Greek verb *didaskō* ("to teach") carries the idea of continual, systematic instruction. Christ never authorized the Church to edit His truth, soften His commands, or modernize His Gospel.

3. The Church's responsibility is preservation before innovation, proclamation before popularity, and obedience before originality. Since Christ promises His presence "even unto the end of the world," the Gospel remains sufficient until history itself concludes. The message does not change because the Master does not change.

C. Practical Application-Stay with the message about God's Grace.....

1. His grace is life-changing.
2. His grace is soul-saving.
3. His grace is sin-forgiving.
4. His grace is burden-lifting.
5. His grace is hope-restoring.
6. His grace is peace-giving.
7. His grace is strength-providing.
8. His grace is ever-present.
9. His grace is never-ending.
10. His grace is always-sufficient.
11. His grace is constantly-pursuing.
12. His grace is freely-given.
13. His grace is richly-blessing.
14. His grace is continually-growing us.
15. His grace is faithfully-keeping us.
16. His grace is purpose-filling.
17. His grace is ministry-empowering.

- 18. His grace is promise-keeping.
- 19. His grace is victory-producing.
- 20. His grace is eternity-securing.

D. Philosophy - At present, we are living in the Dispensation of Grace and you will never celebrate this grace until you embrace what it is.....

1. Grace is God's divine favor freely given to undeserving people through Jesus Christ.

It is the favor of God given to sinners without charge. We did not earn it, deserve it, or purchase it. God freely bestowed it because of Christ.

"Grace is God giving me everything I needed when I deserved nothing but judgment."

2. Grace is God's power working in us to become what we could never become by ourselves.

Grace not only saves us; it strengthens, transforms, equips, and sustains us for holy living (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:10).

"Grace doesn't simply change your destination, it changes your disposition."

3. Grace is God's relentless love pursuing broken people until they are restored.

Grace is God taking the initiative. Before we sought Him, He sought us. Before we called Him, He called us.

"Grace is God running toward a sinner while the sinner is still running away from God."

4. Grace is God's continual supply for every season of the believer's life.

Grace is not merely a doorway into salvation; it is the daily provision by which we live, endure, serve, suffer, and overcome.

"Grace met me at salvation, walks with me every day, and will escort me safely into eternity."

5. Grace is the loving expression of God's character that gives us what Christ purchased instead of what our sins deserved.

At the cross, justice was satisfied in Christ so that grace could be lavished upon sinners without compromising God's holiness.

“Grace is God’s decision to treat me according to Christ’s righteousness instead of my rebellion.”

Grace is defined as.....We live in what scholars call the Grace Dispensation. This means that people are saved purely by the grace of almighty God!

E. Biblical Illustration -

1. Ephesians 2:8–9 (KJV)

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Here’s the shout: You didn’t earn salvation. You didn’t deserve salvation. God gave it as a gift.

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9 (KJV)

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...”

Here’s the shout: Grace doesn’t just save you, it sustains you. Whatever you’re facing today, God’s grace is already enough.

3. Romans 5:20 (KJV)

“...But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”

Here’s the shout: No matter how great the sin, God’s grace is greater. Grace doesn’t merely match sin, it overwhelms it.

4. Titus 2:11–12 (KJV)

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

Here’s the shout: Grace is not only pardoning, it is teaching. The same grace that saves us also sanctifies us.

5. Hebrews 4:16 (KJV)

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Here’s the shout: Grace gives me access to God whenever and wherever I might be!

F. Practical Illustration- A world-famous museum curator was once asked why priceless masterpieces were never updated with brighter colors or modern artistic improvements. He smiled and replied, “Because our responsibility is not to improve the masterpiece, it is to protect it.”

Neither is the Church called to repaint the Gospel of God’s grace.

Every generation receives the same treasure. We are not authors writing a new story, we are custodians protecting an eternal one. One day we will stand before Christ, not to explain how innovative we were, but how faithful we remained to the message He entrusted to us.

G. Meditation Moment: In what ways has the Lord impacted your life with His grace that has changed your life forever?

III. STAND FAST IN THE BELIEF THAT FAITH IN GOD IS AFFIRMING

A. Practical Idea-As the age comes to a close, stay with the faith! You may to know all of the Bible verses you may need to know. But just stay with the faith! Stay with what you know about the Lord! In short, when everything around you is changing, your confidence must remain anchored in the One who never changes.

B. Principle from the Passage

1. Jesus concludes the Great Commission with one of the greatest affirmations ever spoken: ***“Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”*** His promise was never merely geographical; it was covenantal. Christ assured His disciples that His abiding presence would accompany their believing obedience throughout every generation.

2. Their confidence would not rest in favorable circumstances but in the unfailing companionship of the risen Lord. Their faith would be affirmed because His presence would never fail. Until the end of the age, believers are never abandoned by the Savior who commissioned them.

C. Practical Application-Please hear this, Stand fast...

1. when prayers seem unanswered.
2. when opposition becomes overwhelming.
3. when your strength is exhausted.
4. when loneliness surrounds your ministry.
5. when friends walk away.
6. when finances become uncertain.
7. when your health is challenged.
8. when criticism grows louder than encouragement.
9. when doors appear closed.
10. when fear whispers surrender.
11. because Christ is still with you.
12. because His promises still stand.
13. because His power has not diminished.
14. because His grace is still sufficient.
15. because His presence is still enough.

D. Philosophy - Do not argue or fight about your faith in God. As you seek to share what you know about the Lord simply share the part of your faith that you are absolutely sure about. Be for certain that no one knows everything about the faith that you possess. But everyone who loves the Lord should know something! With this in mind, what you know can be shared when what you do not know confronts you.

Faith is not confidence that God will do everything we desire; faith is confidence that God will always do everything He has promised!

Most importantly, remember this, your faith is objective and needs an object to declare its worth. Faith then can be in anything! Faith can be in money. But faith in money has a problem in that there are some things that money cannot buy. Faith can be in doctors, but faith in doctors have a problem. There are some things that doctors cannot fix! But your faith in God is without boundary! Just like God can do anything, your faith in the Lord can do ANYTHING!

E. Biblical Illustration -

1. We Walk by Faith!

2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV) “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

2. The Just Shall Live by Faith!

Romans 1:17 (KJV) “...The just shall live by faith.”

3. Faith is the Victory! 1 John 5:4 (KJV)

“...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

4. Without Faith It Is Impossible! Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)

“But without faith it is impossible to please him...”

5. Fight the Good Fight of Faith! 1 Timothy 6:12 (KJV)

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...”

F. Practical Illustration-One of the brightest young stars in the National Football League is Houston Texans quarterback **C.J. Stroud**. Every week, millions of people watch him throw touchdown passes. Analysts study his mechanics, fans proudly wear his jersey, and young athletes dream of playing like him. Yet, if you listen carefully after his games, you’ll notice something far more significant than his statistics. Before he talks about touchdowns, victories, or personal accomplishments, he almost always begins with these words: **“First and foremost, I want to give all glory and praise to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”**

Win or lose, success or setback, his first response is to honor Jesus Christ. When asked why he continues to speak so openly about his faith despite the criticism that often comes with it, Stroud has explained that Jesus Christ changed his life, and if sharing his faith helps even one person come to know the Lord, then every interview is worth it. Think about that for a moment. Here is a young man with fame, wealth, influence, endorsements, and one of the largest platforms in professional sports, yet the greatest thing he wants the world to know is not his arm, his talent, or his accomplishments—but his Savior. That is what genuine faith looks like. Faith declares, “You can celebrate my success if you choose, but my greatest testimony is not what I’ve achieved—it is the One who made it all possible.” If C.J. Stroud can boldly speak the name of Jesus before cameras, reporters, teammates, and millions of viewers across the nation, then surely we can speak His name in our homes, our

schools, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our communities. Faith was never intended to remain silent. It was meant to point others to Jesus Christ.

G. Meditation Moment-Take a moment and write down at least 5 things about the Christian faith that you are sure of that when shared could help others come to know Him.

IV. STICK WITH THE MINISTRY KNOWING THAT SERVICE IS AWARDING

A. Practical Idea-Every act of faithful service performed for Christ today is an eternal investment that heaven will one day reward.

B. Principle from the Passage

1. Jesus commands His disciples to ***“go...teach...baptize...teach,”*** revealing that disciple-making is not a one-time event but an ongoing lifestyle that continues until ***“the end of the world.”***

2. The Church is never instructed to retire from the Great Commission, only to remain faithful to it. Christ’s promise of His continual presence guarantees not only the success of His mission but also the certainty of His reward. Scripture consistently reminds believers that their labor in the Lord is never in vain because heaven keeps perfect records of earthly faithfulness.

C. Practical Application - People serve for different reasons.....

1. Some people serve to be seen
2. Some people serve only if they get paid
3. Some people serve to be heard
4. Some people serve when it’s convenient
5. Some people serve for applause
6. Some people serve for a position
7. Some people serve to build their name
8. Some people serve only when someone is watching

9. Some people serve until they get tired...but real servants serve until the Master says, "Well done."
10. Some people ask, "What's in it for me?"...but real servants ask, "Lord, what can I do for You?"

D. Doctrinal Wisdom-Stick with the ministry...

1. when no one applauds your labor.
2. when serving becomes exhausting.
3. when people forget your sacrifice.
4. when your name is never mentioned.
5. when your kindness is overlooked.
6. when your generosity is unnoticed.
7. when ministry costs more than it gives.
8. when criticism outweighs compliments.
9. when your harvest seems delayed.
10. because heaven keeps perfect records.
11. because Christ forgets no labor of love.
12. because every soul matters.
13. because eternity rewards faithfulness.
14. because your labor is never in vain.
15. because one day the Savior Himself will say, "Well done."

E. Philosophy - THE FIVE CROWNS OF THE BELIEVER

Jesus wore a crown of thorns so that His faithful followers might one day wear crowns of glory. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ, but the New Testament teaches that faithful believers will receive rewards for their service at the Judgment Seat of Christ (the Bema). These crowns are not given to earn salvation; they are given to honor faithful living and faithful service.

1. The Incorruptible Crown (The Imperishable Crown)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:24–27

"Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."

This crown is awarded to believers who practice spiritual discipline, exercise self-control, and faithfully run the Christian race. It is for those who refuse to let the flesh control them and instead live lives of obedience and victory through Christ.

2. The Crown of Rejoicing (The Soul Winner's Crown)

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:19–20; Philippians 4:1

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?”

This crown is awarded to those who faithfully share the Gospel, lead others to Jesus Christ, and invest in making disciples. Every soul influenced for Christ becomes an eternal source of rejoicing.

3. The Crown of Righteousness

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7–8

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness...”

This crown is reserved for believers who faithfully finish their race while eagerly anticipating the return of Jesus Christ. Those who love His appearing demonstrate it by the way they live each day.

4. The Crown of Life

Scripture: James 1:12; Revelation 2:10

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life...”

This crown is given to believers who remain faithful through suffering, persecution, temptation, and trials. They refuse to abandon Christ regardless of the cost.

5. The Crown of Glory

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:2–4

“And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

This crown is promised to faithful shepherds and spiritual leaders who lovingly care for God's people with humility, integrity, and faithfulness. They serve God's flock not for personal gain, but for the glory of God.

F. Biblical Illustration-

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: ³ If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. ⁵ Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. ⁶ Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: ⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) ⁸ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. ⁹ Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:1–10, KJV).

G. Practical Illustration-Explain the Judgement Seat of Christ

THE GALA IN GLORY WHERE THE AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

V. Conclusion and Celebration

- A. The real goal is “Well Done!”
- B. Prayer and Benediction

