

# 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

## Based on the Themes of Christ's Return, Readiness, and the Grace of God

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### Day 1: The Promise of His Return

Reading: John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Devotional: Jesus did not leave without making a promise. He ascended to the Father, but his departure was never meant to be permanent. The same Christ who walked among us, who died and rose again, is coming back. This is not wishful thinking or religious sentiment -- it is a declared, prophetic certainty rooted in a God who has never broken a single promise. Every word in Scripture has proven faithful. Let the reality of his return anchor your soul today. You are not waiting on something uncertain. You are waiting on someone whose word is unshakeable. Live with that confidence.

**Personal Reflection:** In what areas of your life have you allowed doubt to overshadow the certainty of God's promises? Write down one promise from Scripture and meditate on it throughout the day.

**Practical Application:** Share the hope of Christ's return with one person today. It does not have to be a lengthy conversation. Simply speak the truth that Jesus is coming back and that there is hope beyond what we see.

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### Day 2: The Day of Grace

Reading: 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5

Devotional: We are living in a remarkable window of time. God has not yet brought history to its final chapter, and the reason is not indifference -- it is mercy. He is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but desiring that all come to repentance. Every sunrise is an extension of his grace. Every breath drawn is an opportunity to turn toward him. This is the day of grace, and it will not last forever. Do not treat the patience of God as permission to delay. Respond to his mercy with gratitude, and let that gratitude move you toward surrender and obedience.

**Personal Reflection:** How have you experienced the patience and mercy of God in your own life? Are there areas where you have been taking his grace for granted rather than responding to it?

**Practical Application:** Pray specifically for someone in your life who does not yet know Christ. Ask God to use you as an instrument of his grace in that person's life this week.

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### **Day 3: Ready for the Storm**

Reading: Matthew 24:36-44; Luke 12:35-40; Revelation 6:1-2

Devotional: No one knows the day or the hour. That is not a discouraging statement -- it is a call to readiness. A wise person who hears a storm is coming does not ignore the warning. They prepare. The return of Christ is imminent, meaning it could occur at any moment. The question is not whether he is coming. The question is whether you will be ready when he does. Readiness is not a frantic scramble at the last moment. It is a life lived in surrender, in faith, and in active obedience to the one who is returning. Be ready today.

**Personal Reflection:** If Christ returned today, would you be at peace? What areas of your heart and life still need to be surrendered to him? Be honest in your reflection.

**Practical Application:** Take five minutes today to examine your daily habits and routines. Ask yourself whether they reflect a life oriented toward Christ or a life distracted from him. Make one specific adjustment.

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### **Day 4: The Church and the Coming Wrath**

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; Romans 8:1

Devotional: God did not design wrath for those who are in Christ. This is one of the most comforting declarations in all of Scripture. For those who have trusted in Jesus, who have repented and surrendered to him, there is no condemnation. The coming tribulation described in Revelation is the outpouring of divine judgment on a world that has rejected God. But the believer stands in a different position entirely -- covered by the blood of Christ, delivered from the wrath to come. This is not a reason for pride. It is a reason for deep, reverent gratitude and urgent compassion for those who are not yet covered.

**Personal Reflection:** How does the reality of God's coming wrath change the way you view those around you who do not know Christ? Does it create urgency in your heart to share the gospel?

**Practical Application:** Write down the names of three people in your life who, to your knowledge, are not saved. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week, and ask God to open a door for a gospel conversation.

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## **Day 5: Occupied Until He Comes**

Reading: Luke 19:13; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 22:12

Devotional: Jesus told his followers to occupy until he comes. That word occupy means to be engaged, to be active, to be about the Father's business while there is still time. The return of Christ is not a reason to disengage from life. It is a reason to live with greater purpose and intentionality. Go to work. Serve your family. Love your neighbors. Proclaim the gospel. Invest in the local church. Every act of faithfulness done in the name of Christ has eternal weight. You are not just passing time -- you are building toward a kingdom that will never end. Live like it matters, because it does.

**Personal Reflection:** What has God specifically placed in your hands to do while you wait for his return? Are you doing it faithfully, or have you allowed distraction or discouragement to pull you away from your calling?

**Practical Application:** Identify one tangible way you can serve your church or community this week as an act of faithful obedience. Do not wait for the perfect moment. Occupy until he comes.

# **Small Group Guide: "Is This the End?" (Part 1-C)**

## **The Rapture and What Comes Next**

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### **Overview**

This session explores the biblical teaching on the return of Christ, commonly referred to as the rapture. Pastor Snow walked the congregation through what Scripture says about the events surrounding Christ's return, the tribulation period, and what it means for believers to live in readiness today. Use this guide to go deeper into those themes together as a group.

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## Key Takeaways

1. **Jesus is coming back.** His return is not a maybe -- it is prophesied and promised. God has never broken a promise.
  2. **There will be a reckoning.** Waiting until the last moment to get right with God is a dangerous and unreliable plan, because no one knows the day or the hour of Christ's return.
  3. **The rapture is imminent.** Imminent does not mean soon -- it means it could happen at any time, without warning, like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2).
  4. **We are currently living in a time of grace.** God's patience is not weakness. He is giving people every opportunity to come to Christ before that season of grace ends.
  5. **Believers are not appointed to wrath.** Scripture indicates that those who are in Christ have already been delivered from the wrath that is to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:9).
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## Scripture References to Study Before or After Your Meeting

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
  - 1 Thessalonians 1:10
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 9
  - Daniel 9:24, 27
  - Revelation chapters 1-3, and 22:16
  - Matthew 24:36
  - Zechariah 14:2
  - Revelation 6-18 (for broader context on the tribulation period)
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## Discussion Questions

### Opening Question

- When you hear the phrase "Jesus is coming back," what is your honest, gut-level reaction? Excitement? Anxiety? Indifference? Why do you think you respond that way?

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## Digging Into the Message

1. Pastor Snow presented two primary views of the rapture -- the two-event view (pre-tribulation) and the single-event view (post-tribulation). Before this sermon, had you ever thought much about the difference? How does it affect the way you think about your faith, if at all?
2. Pastor Snow described the current age we live in as a time of God's grace and mercy -- a season in which God is giving people the opportunity to come to Christ. How does that framing change the way you think about difficult things happening in the world right now?
3. One of the four reasons Pastor Snow gave for believing the church will not be present during the tribulation is the word "imminent" -- meaning the rapture could happen at any time. How does that word sit with you? Does it create urgency in your life, or does it feel abstract?
4. The word "ecclesia" (church) appears 19 times in Revelation chapters 1 through 3, and zero times in chapters 4 through 20. What do you make of that observation? Does that kind of textual detail strengthen your confidence in Scripture? Why or why not?
5. Pastor Snow used the illustration of people who prepare for a storm versus people who ignore the warnings. He said simply, "There is a storm coming." How are you personally preparing for the return of Christ -- not just intellectually, but in the way you actually live?
6. Pastor Snow said this about why Jesus has not yet returned: "I believe that right now we are in the time of Jesus' great mercy. I believe that we are in a time when he is giving people opportunities to trust him and follow him and place their life in the hands of God." Does that perspective change the way you see people around you who do not yet know Christ?
7. The sermon mentioned signs that suggest we may be drawing closer to the end -- global gospel preaching, escalating wars and conflict, increasing natural disasters, the rise of false teachers, and strange heavenly phenomena. Which of these, if any, stands out most to you? Why?

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## Personal Reflection Questions

- If the rapture happened tonight, is there anyone in your life you would wish you had talked to about Jesus? What is stopping you from having that conversation?
  - Pastor Snow challenged the congregation to think about their "next step" -- whether that is salvation, baptism, or deeper discipleship. What is your honest next step right now?
  - Are you living with a sense of urgency about eternity, or has the routine of daily life caused you to set that aside? What would it look like to hold both -- occupying faithfully here on earth while keeping eternity in view?
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## Practical Applications

1. **Study the Scripture references listed above on your own this week.** Do not just take the sermon's word for it -- open the Bible and read the passages for yourself. Bring any questions back to your group next week.
  2. **Identify one person in your life who does not know Christ.** Pray for them specifically this week. Ask God to give you an opportunity and the courage to share the gospel with them.
  3. **If you have never been baptized as a believer, consider taking that step.** Reach out to a pastor or group leader for more information. Baptism is not what saves you -- it is a public declaration of what God has already done in your heart.
  4. **If you have not yet attended Place,** consider signing up. Understanding how God has wired you can help you serve more effectively and understand yourself and others better.
  5. **As a group, commit to praying together for the people in your lives who are not yet saved.** This is not just a personal matter -- it is a community responsibility. Carry each other's burdens and each other's people before the Lord.
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## Closing Prayer Prompts

Use one or more of these to close your group time in prayer:

- Thank God for the time of grace we are living in and for His patience toward those who do not yet know Him.

- Ask God to give your group a renewed sense of urgency and compassion for people who are not yet saved.
  - Pray specifically for the people each group member named who do not know Christ.
  - Ask God to prepare your hearts to live with eternity in view without losing sight of your responsibilities here and now.
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*"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."* -- 1 Thessalonians 5:9

Pastor Snow describes the current age as a time of God's grace and mercy, during which people have the opportunity to come to Christ -- how does understanding this truth change the way you approach conversations about faith with those around you?

The sermon presents the concept of imminence, meaning Christ could return at any moment without warning -- how does living with this awareness practically shape your daily priorities, relationships, and choices?

Pastor Snow draws a parallel between Noah warning people of the coming flood and the church's responsibility to warn others about the coming tribulation -- in what ways are you actively sounding that warning in your own sphere of influence?

The absence of the word *ekklesia* from Revelation chapters 4 through 20 is presented as evidence that the church will not be present during the tribulation -- how does studying the original language of Scripture deepen your confidence in biblical truth?

Pastor Snow emphasizes that Jesus is the one correct answer regardless of the question -- in what areas of your life are you still searching for answers in places other than Christ?

The sermon describes global chaos, escalating wars, and increasing natural disasters as signs pointing toward the end times -- how do you maintain hope and purpose in the midst of a world that appears to be moving in this direction?

Paul's instruction in 1 Thessalonians 4 is to comfort one another with the promise of being with God forever -- who in your life needs to hear this comfort right now, and how might you share it with them?

Pastor Snow warns that false prophets and deceivers will increase as the end draws near -- what spiritual disciplines and practices help you develop the discernment needed to distinguish truth from deception?

The sermon presents two primary views on the rapture, the pre-tribulation and post-tribulation positions, while acknowledging that thoughtful believers can differ -- how do you hold theological convictions with both confidence and humility when engaging those who see things differently?

The call to 'occupy until he comes,' drawn from Jesus's own words, challenges believers to remain engaged and purposeful in the world rather than withdrawing in anticipation of his return -- what does faithful occupation look like in your specific calling, workplace, and community?