

THE END IS NEAR

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THREE TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS' RETURN

- Jesus' Return Will Happen
- Our Experience of Jesus' Return will Depend on Our Relationship with Jesus
- Jesus' Return will be Both Unexpected and Expected

2. THREE ATTITUDES WE SHOULD HAVE TOWARDS JESUS' RETURN

- Be Awake and Sober
- Be Clothed with Faith, Hope and Love
- Encourage and Build Each Other Up

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What was most helpful for you from this week's message? Why?
2. This week, we ended the year by looking ahead to the return of Jesus. What is your view of Jesus' return? How does that view impact the way you live?
3. Since we live in an affluent society it is very easy for us to be lulled into a false sense of security and peace instead of living awake and sober to the realities of this world and the need for Jesus' return. What does it mean to be "awake and sober" as we go through life? What are some attitudes or actions that come out of an awake and sober mindset?
4. This passage in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 ends with a call to encourage one another in regards to the return of Jesus. What is the typical result of your conversations about "end times?" How might you adjust your focus and language in order to make those conversations more encouraging?
5. God never calls us to check our intellect at the door to become a follower of Jesus. What questions and concerns do you have about Jesus' return? Where/ who could you go to look for answers to these questions and concerns?
6. Like labor pains, we can be sure that Jesus' return will happen but we don't know exactly when. How would you live differently if you knew Jesus' return was going to happen within the next year? What keeps you from living that way now?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: As Christians we can be grateful realists. We can be honest about the fact this world needs to be saved and we can be confident that, because of Jesus, it will be.