

Sunday mornings

Christ's return

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
CrossLife online Sunday 3rd May 2020

1. Introduction ...

... Jesus is returning ... but when?

... 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 ...

... Matthew 24:36-44 ...

2. Three things we do in preparation (8)...

(a) Breastplate of faith

(b) Breastplate of love

(c) Helmet of the hope of our Salvation

3. Paul's warning: are you ready? (3-4)...

If you are not a child of the light, when Christ returns, it will be too late

4. Conclusion ...

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Jesus after the resurrection

April 2020

*“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. **For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Hebrews 12:2-3

Sometimes we can think that the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the end point, the culmination, the full stop, on Jesus ministry and work. I mean defeating death and forgiving sin—is there anything left to do? But there is. Jesus work and ministry after the resurrection is just as significant as before. Perhaps more so: His Ascension, present ministry and second coming should have a profound impact on how we see and follow Jesus today as much as his death and resurrection. Join with us for these three weeks at CrossLife online as we look at these important, but too often forgotten, fact of Jesus life and ministry.

Questions on “Christ's return”

1. What comes to your mind when people talk about the 'return of the Lord'?

2. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:8. Paul tells us that we are to; fix our hearts fixed on Jesus, and keep displaying God's love. Why are these two things important in preparation for the Lords return? What would happen if we stopped doing these two things?

3. To put on the 'helmet of the hope of our salvation' is to have an eternal perspective. It means we are to hold to the promise that one day we will be face to face with Jesus. How should this perspective affect how we live in the now? Is it possible that the Christian can be joyful, even amidst hardship?

4. In verses 4-5, Paul talks about two different kinds of people. Often when the Bible talks about darkness and light, it is pointing us to those are a child of God (see 1 Peter 2:9). The warning in verse 3 is that if you are not a child of the light, when Christ returns it will be too late. Spend time praying for those who are in need of God's light.

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