

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE RETURN OF CHRIST
Stand-Alone Sermon

ICEBREAKER: What jingle comes to your mind? Hum or whistle it right now and see if others can correctly guess it!

OVERVIEW: One day Jesus is coming back. That much we know for sure. When? What are the signs of the times? What will happen when He returns? These are questions that many Christians disagree on. But that doesn't mean that we should just throw our hands up and give up trying to understand what the Bible says about Christ's return. The Bible speaks much about the return of Christ. We must try our best to study and understand as much as possible. Because what you believe about the return of Christ is not irrelevant. It matters.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What is eschatology? Why is it important to study eschatology?
3. What are some of the dangers of holding to an incorrect eschatology?
4. What are the essential doctrines of eschatology that all Christians agree on? What are some of the doctrines of eschatology that sincere Christians disagree on?
5. What is the difference between first, second, and third order doctrines, and where does eschatology fit? Why is it important to place doctrines in categories like these?

6. Read Acts 1:9-11. What does this verse teach about Jesus?
7. Read Philippians 3:20-21. What does this passage teach about the return of Christ?
8. Read Matthew 16:27. What does this passage teach about the return of Christ?
9. Can you recall the three main words that are used in the New Testament to describe the return of Christ? (Hint: See 1 Corinthians 1:7, 2 Thessalonians 2:8, and James 5:7.)
10. Read Matthew 24:36. What did this verse teach about the timing of Christ's return? What about those who argue that this verse says that no one knows the day or hour, but it doesn't say that we cannot figure out the week, month, or year?
11. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. What two events will occur immediately before Christ's return?
12. What is the millennium, and what are the four main views of the millennium?
13. What are the five things that will happen when Christ returns? (Hint: See 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, Philippians 3:20-21, 2 Thessalonians 2:8, Matthew 16:27, and 2 Peter 3:10-13.)

The Last Word: The important thing is to make sure you are ready for Christ's return, and to make sure that everyone you know is ready for Christ's return.