

## “The Day of the Lord”

May 26, 2024

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

*“...And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.” 1 Peter 3:15 (NLT)*

Knowing does not make it easy, but it does make it necessary.

The return of Jesus Christ is the ultimate truth of Christianity. **The end of the story is the whole point of the story.**

We cannot simply filter out, or devise intellectual arguments, to negate the parts of Scripture that we do not like.

*“...this same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11*

The Christian’s hope is in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In this movement through time that we call human history there is a central figure, and that central figure is Jesus Christ.

Jesus’ first coming was in humility, so that he might die for the sins of his people and rise again to give them eternal life.

The next time Jesus comes, he does not come in humility, he comes in glory. He does not come to die; he comes to reign. He does not come to rescue; he comes to condemn.

The Day of the Lord is a day of judgment that will fall on those who have not repented of their sins and acknowledged Jesus as Lord and Savior.

In 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, Paul moves from the comfort that comes to believers to the discomfort that ought to come to nonbelievers.

Every generation of Christians should live in the light of the reality that Christ could come at any time.

The event of Jesus return is unannounced, but it is not unknown.

The fascination with events and timelines distracts us from the purpose and the point...which is that we must tell people of the imminent return of Christ.

We cannot push our responsibility off onto the next generation of Christians. We may, in fact, be the last generation.

The truth of the day of the Lord should relentlessly drive us to share the Gospel. Many souls who will face God’s wrath are people that we love and cherish.

The *Good News* is ultimately good news only if there are consequence of rejecting it.

If Jesus saves all, no matter what we do, no matter what we believe; then what was the point of Jesus coming at all?

The greatest challenge we face today as a church is not with atheism, it is with apathy. By negating, or ignoring, the end of the story, the message of the gospel becomes irrelevant.

Our prayer should be that we have the loving boldness to proclaim the truth, the whole truth, about what awaits sinners, so that the gospel of salvation and deliverance has ultimate meaning.

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