

1 Thessalonians 4-5: Living for the Coming King

Ok, wow! We were so humbled and thankful to the Lord last weekend at the "Room to Grow" service. By the end of the day the Lord had led us as a church to commit over \$160,000 per year to the room to grow fund. In addition there was nearly \$20,000 in one off contributions. Praise the Lord!

This enables us to move forwards with the development of the Life Centre so keep praying for those people who are "set apart" to do the work, that they will know the wisdom and provision of the Lord and the filling of His Spirit to do all that is in God's heart for this ministry tool.

If you were not here last week, or as we know was the case with some people, you were wanting a little more time to seek the Lord as to what you should give, you can pick up a commitment envelope at the connections desk. That also has all the relevant account details you will need.

As part of our Making Room To Grow focus, remember that the week after Queens' birthday we are moving to two morning services. A 9am and an 11am service. You will be by now deciding which service will be your service to attend!

This week in our teaching we are looking at the return of Jesus. There is no greater topic that inspires hope and encourages diligence in living out the Christian faith.

Enjoy!

Nick

Getting to know you:

1. What would you do with 48 hours left to live?

Into the Bible

1. What is the context of Pauls' letter?
 - a. What was happening to the believers at Thessalonica?
 - b. Why were they worried about their fellow believers who had died?
2. Refer to the following verses. What happens to the believer after they die?
 - a. Acts 7:59
 - b. Luke 23:43
 - c. 2 Kings 2:11-12
 - d. Philippians 1:23
 - e. 2 Corinthians 5:1-9
 - f. Romans 8:38-39
 - g. Luke 16:22

*Try to use scripture as much as possible to back up responses. Turn to those verses and explore the context (what comes before and after a particular verse) as a group.

3. Outline the sequence of events described in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17
 - a. Why would this description be an encouragement for the believers?
 - b. What is the point of Prophecy? (The Bible is the only book that claims and proves events before they happen with 100% accuracy!)
 - c. What purifying and encouraging effects does prophecy have?

4. Chapter 5:1-3 introduces another term, the “day of the Lord.” Refer to the following verses and describe the “day of the Lord”
 - a. Joel 1:15
 - b. Amos 5:18-24
 - c. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3
 - d. 2 Peter 3:10-13

Application

2. How does this passage in chapter 4 comfort and encourage us when faced with death?

3. How should we live in view of Christ’s return? What does 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8 inspire us to do?

4. If you knew Jesus was definitely coming back next week, (and we are NOT suggesting that he is, though he could well be!) What would you pay attention to in this last week here?
 - a. Your priorities
 - b. Your relationships
 - c. Who would you want to tell about Jesus

Going Beyond

The Return of Christ is a huge encouragement to those who have lost loved ones; we will see them again! And it is the ultimate wake up call for believers to get out and share their faith. Jesus Christ is coming again, there is only so much time available for people to hear the good news and be saved. We have been given today to reach people for Jesus.

How urgent is your evangelism? Spend time sharing with your group how you evangelise. Then pray for each other and for the people the Lord has in your life — those with whom he has given you the opportunity to share the gospel.