

GROUND

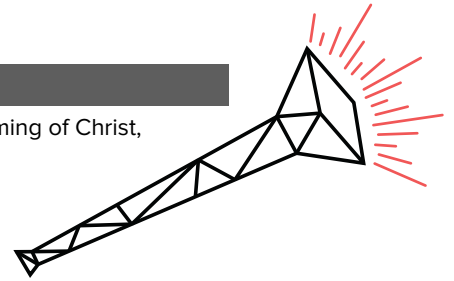
Sunday, March 13, 2022 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 9 | **Grounded for the Future**

Matthew 24:30-44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Peter 3:3-13

EFCA Statement of Faith | Article 9. Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.



Jesus **WILL RETURN**

personally

1 Thessalonians 4:16

bodily

Acts 1:9-11

visibly

Matthew 24:23-28, 30; Revelation 1:7

gloriously — his sure return is our blessed hope!

Matthew 25:31; Titus 2:11-13

at a time we **DO NOT KNOW**,

Matthew 24:36-44

thief in the night

Mark 13:32-37; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3

live expectantly

Matthew 24:42-51; Romans 13:11-14; James 5:8-9; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Revelation 3:3

so join the **WELCOMING** committee, not the **PLANNING** committee!

Matthew 25:21

the purpose of prophecy – not for prediction, but for recognition

Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:10-12 (Isaiah 9:6, 53:1-12) 2 Corinthians 1:13; Deuteronomy 29:29

godly living

2 Peter 3:13-14, 17-18; 1 John 2:6; 3:1-3

sacrificial service

1 Peter 4:10; Galatians 5:13; Philippians 2:3

energetic mission

Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 4:8

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card at the Connect Desk.

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this as a guide for further study and growth personally.

Getting Started

Part of our goal together is getting to know more about one another.

What is something you are looking forward to in the next few months?

Review...

1. **Read Article 9 of our Statement of Faith aloud as a group.**

Review your message notes. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it as a group.

This week's questions are borrowed and adapted from a study produced by North Coast Church of Vista, CA. <https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/sermons.northcoastchurch.com/notesheets/2021/27-23.pdf>. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.

Digging Deeper

- When you hear someone talking about the end times and speculating about Jesus' return, what is your typical response?
 - How has your interest in and/or understanding of the return of Christ changed as you've gotten older?
- James 5:7** tells us to be patient as we wait for the return of Jesus. Most people aren't very good at patiently waiting for anything.
 - What is something that is hard for you to wait for?
 - Have you developed any ways to help you be patient when you're in a situation requiring waiting?
- Revelation is not the only place in the New Testament that talks about the last days and the return of Jesus. At least 12 of the New Testament books refer to it. One of the longer passages is found in **2 Peter 3:2-14; 17-18**. As you read through the passage...

- Circle / highlight any words or phrases talking about how we are to live in the last days in light of the future.
- Underline the portions that describe what will happen when the day of the Lord arrives (Jesus returns).
- Put an X next to anything that confuses you.

2 Peter 3:3-14, 17-18 (ESV)

³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. . . . ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- What sticks out to you about how we're supposed to live in light of what will happen when Christ returns?
- Knowing how everything will turn out in the end, what differences could this make in how we live out our faith?
 - How does **2 Corinthians 4:18** influence your answer?

Closing

Discuss how you can encourage one another to live in light of Jesus' return. Take some time to pray for one another as you wrap up.

G A S J E S U S C A H A F
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Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (ESV)

*Find the words **bolded** below.*

¹³ But we do not want you to be **uninformed, brothers**, about those who are **asleep**, that you may not **grieve** as **others** do who have no **hope**. ¹⁴ For since we **believe** that **Jesus died** and **rose again, even** so, through **Jesus**, God will **bring** with him those who have **fallen asleep**. ¹⁵ For this we **declare** to you by a word from the **Lord**, that we who are **alive**, who are **left** until the **coming** of the **Lord**, will not **precede** those who have **fallen asleep**. ¹⁶ For the **Lord** himself will **descend** from **heaven** with a cry of **command**, with the **voice** of an **archangel**, and with the **sound** of the **trumpet** of God. And the **dead** in **Christ** will **rise first**. ¹⁷ **Then** we who are **alive**, who are **left**, will be **caught** up together with them in the clouds to meet the **Lord** in the air, and so we will always be with the **Lord**.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.