

RENOVATE: THIS YEAR I MEAN IT

Week 4 – Anticipating His Arrival

I Thess. 4:13-18

INTRODUCTION

- A. When was the last time you eagerly anticipated something?
- B. We anticipate those things we really look forward to taking place.
- C. Does the return of Jesus fill you with a sense of joy or cause you to feel a great sense of anxiety?

JESUS IS COMING BACK

- A. There is a time set for when the “Coming of the Lord” will take place (v. 15).
- B. The Lord Jesus Himself will descend from heaven (v. 16; Acts 1:11).
- C. Christ return is inevitable but certainly unpredictable (I Thess. 5:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:10; Matt. 24:36).

NO ONE WILL MISS HIS RETURN

- A. The Thessalonians misunderstood when Christ would return and expected it to happen during their lifetime (v. 13).
- B. Whether people are alive or already in the grave, all will be caught up to meet Him (vs. 14-17; Jn. 5:28-29).
- C. Jesus will come in a way so that every eye will see Him (Rev. 1:7).

WE HAVE HOPE

- A. We don’t have to grieve the way others do (outsiders in v. 12) who have no hope (v. 13).
- B. We will be reunited with fellow believers in Christ (v 17).
- C. We will always be with the Lord (v 17).

LIVE IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS ARRIVAL

- A. Live holy and godly lives (Gal. 3:27; I Pet. 1:15-16). If our lives do not look any different than non-Christians, then our lives are not different than non-Christians.
- B. Share the Gospel with others (Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Pet. 3:9). The greatest gift we can give to others, is the gift of the Gospel.
- C. Make the important things important (Psa. 27:4; Matt. 6:33). Live every day as if it is the most important day because it could be your last day.

CONCLUSION

- A. As Christians, the return of our King should cause us to feel great joy and excitement.
- B. What if we lived every day of our lives in anticipation of His return? How might our lives look different.
- C. If we aren’t eagerly anticipating the Lord’s return, then perhaps we’re not ready for His return.