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Week 10 – Christ's Return

Introduction:

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.

KEY PRINCIPLE: We never want to interpret the Scripture through the headlines. Rather we always interpret the headlines through Scripture!

Matthew 24:1-21 Notes and Observations:

➔ See also 2 Thessalonians 2:4

Three Important Takeaways:

1. You don't need to be _____ (vs. 4)
2. You don't need to be _____ (vs. 6)
3. You don't need to be _____ (vs. 14)

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. In Matthew 24, Jesus predicts the fall of the Temple in A.D. 70, and many other things leading up to His return. How does it make you feel to know that these things were written down for us – under the direction of the Holy Spirit – so that we don't have to be deceived, alarmed or intimidated?

Ponderings:

2. Do you personally believe we are living in the "last of the last" days on planet earth? What are some reasons for your answer, whether yes or no? Does it make you anxious to think about the possible soon coming of Christ? Why do you think this is so?

3. Both Jesus and Daniel both mention this "abomination of desolation" that will happen inside the "holy place" of the Temple. Around 168 B.C., Antiochus Epiphanes sacrificed a pig on the altar of the Temple, but we know this was not the abomination Daniel spoke of, because 200 years later Jesus predicted that it was still a future event. What other views of topics like Antichrist, the Tribulation, the Rapture, the Second Coming, etc. have you been exposed to? Respectfully discuss as a group...(it's okay to disagree!).

4. What was meant by the principle of not interpreting the Scripture in light of the headlines, but instead interpreting the headlines through the lens of Scripture? Discuss...

5. Do you agree or disagree with Pastor Jeremy's opinion that America has been used by God to stave off the move toward globalism and a one-world government? Feel free to discuss...

Promptings:

6. Based on the state of our nation and world today, do you sometimes wonder whether you're deceived? Do you get alarmed? Do you feel intimidated? How can being part of a solid church and life group help you overcome those things? Talk about them one by one, and close by praying for each other...