

The welcome verse for this week is Philippians 3:2, “Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”



In the Meantime
1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

The Bottom Line: Live like you are anticipating the King’s arrival.

Introduction:

Biblical Interpretation Rule Number One: You should always consider scripture in its context.

Have you ever heard, “He will surely do it,” and wondered what, exactly, he is surely doing? We are not allowed to tag our own meaning to it.

What is Jesus surely going to do? **He is surely going to return.**

Many have tried to predict Jesus’ arrival based off ancient calendars, dreams and visions, and scriptural manipulation. While exact dates do not (and should not) matter so much to us, the important thing is that we are ready when He does make His appearance.

Tension:

In the ordinary mundaneness of life, we can become distracted and caught up in the present to the point that we forget what/who lies before us. It is not that we become so future-minded that we are absent from the present moment. Instead, the hope we have for our future informs **how** we live in the present.

What if Jesus is really coming back? How will he find His bride? Is she prepared to receive him?

Truth:

We do not want to seem unprepared or embarrassed at Jesus’ coming, but we want to be ready and prepared to receive Jesus, our King. So, for now, we live, move, and have our being in him (1 John 2:28).

Jesus has come and he is coming. We exist in the middle of those two events. In the meantime, God is inviting and instructing us toward one thing – *Live like you are anticipating the King's arrival.*

Paul reminds us not to live aimlessly, but purposefully as we await Jesus' return to us, with the ultimate goal of being prepared to receive him well.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5.

How to Wait Well for the Coming King:

1. Stay rooted in community.
2. Do good to everyone.
3. Find rest in God's presence.
4. Submit to Holy Spirit.
5. Refuse compromise.

Application & Conclusion:

It is important that when Jesus makes his appearance, we are ready to receive him and usher him in. Those who have gone before us will rise first, and we will meet him in the air with a great welcome, a royal entry. Many have found fear and anxiety around the event of Jesus' return, but it is truly an event overflowing with hope.

In Jesus' first appearance, he introduced the reality of God's Kingdom. When He comes again, he will establish it in its fullness. In the meantime, God is sanctifying and preparing His people to receive their King. We submit to his heavenly rule now in preparation for his earthly rule later, when he removes all corruption to redeem and reconciles all things to himself. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Discussion questions for group this week:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?

4. If I could ask a question about this it would be....