

May 10/11, 2025

"The End Times"

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SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [1 Thessalonians 4:16-18](#) | Jesus Will Return

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

It isn't long after the church in Thessalonica begins that the early Jesus followers have questions about how the world is going to end. They ask questions like: When will it happen? How will it happen? How can we know we are getting close? It appears this is a topic the Apostle Paul teaches about regularly. While they still have questions, one thing is sure: Jesus will return! There will be a second coming. This momentous, massively significant event will kick off the end times, the end of all things. Jesus's return was the hope Paul wanted them to cling to.

We are two thousand years closer to Jesus's return and have the same questions. This passage provides us with hope and encouragement that Jesus is coming back and that we should be ready. While many things about the end times are debated, the certain truth we cling to is that Jesus will return!

TODAY: How can you prepare for Jesus's return? In your journal, answer these questions: If you knew Jesus was coming back in one year, what would look different in your life? What would you stop doing? What would you start? What would you keep doing? Ask God for the grace to put these things into practice now.

Day 2 [1 Thessalonians 5:1-10](#) | Jesus Will Judge

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

Paul clarifies that the coming of Jesus means judgment and destruction for God's enemies. He reminds his readers of the frequent occasions when he taught them about the coming of Jesus and the judgment the rebellious will face. Though God has been patient with the rebellious ([2 Peter 3:9](#)), this judgment is soon coming. God provides a glimpse of this righteous judgment in [Revelation 20:10](#). In this passage, recorded by the Apostle John, God unveils the future. John writes that Satan and his cohorts will be cast into the lake of burning fire, a final and eternal judgment.

The Bible is clear that there is eternal life for believers and judgment and death after the grave for all outside of Christ. When we place our faith and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin, Scripture teaches that there is no future condemnation ([Romans 8:1](#)). It's the same thing Paul teaches us in [1 Thessalonians 5:9](#), "God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." Our destiny is one or the other.

TODAY: If you have yet to place your faith and trust in Jesus, do it today. If you have, praise the Lord with Ada Bible Worship and the lyrics of the song "[Amazing Grace](#)." "My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me."

Day 3 [Revelation 21:1-5](#) | Forever with Christ

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Revelation 21:4

The book of Revelation is the final book in the Bible. This book was written by the last surviving apostle, John, who also wrote the Gospel of John and three New Testament letters that bear his name. John and his brother James were fishermen when Jesus called them to follow him ([Matthew 4:21](#)). A leader in the early church, he was exiled to the island of Patmos by the Roman government. It is there that he receives visions from God that become Revelation. In Revelation, John records what God says about the future for those who belong to Jesus. It is not a future floating on a cloud and playing a harp. Instead, he describes a future forever with Jesus, in a restored creation and with all pain and heartache gone.

Jesus not only forgives us of sin; he gives us new life and will one day restore the earth to what it was always meant to be. At long last, we will finally live as we were originally designed to live, in resurrected bodies with Jesus—a life without death, mourning, crying or pain. It's a life we can barely imagine now, constantly surrounded by these results of sin and evil.

TODAY: Memorize [Revelation 21:4](#). Use it as a constant reminder of your future with Jesus. Use these powerful words to form a prayer of gratitude for what awaits you on the new earth with Christ. Thank God for what Jesus did on the cross to make this restored life a reality for all who believe. For more conversation on Revelation and the End Times, listen to Pastor Aaron and our staff on the [Beyond the Weekend Podcast](#) today.

Day 4 [1 Thessalonians 5:6-11](#) | Now Matters

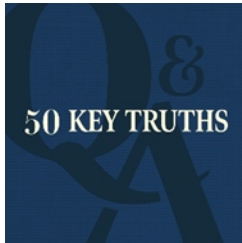
So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 1 Thessalonians 5:6

In this passage, Paul tells the church in Thessalonica two times that these truths are to make a difference in their lives. He does not tell them about the end times so they can debate how the world will end, develop differing theological opinions or conduct lengthy talks about the next life. The words "So then" and "Therefore" make clear that what Christians believe about these things should affect how they live. Their confidence in the second coming of Christ is to be a source of hope and encouragement in their daily lives. Their lives should be different because Jesus is coming back, and they know it! This knowledge should motivate them to live differently.

So it should be for us as well. Being "awake" and "sober" gives us the opportunity to live with faith, hope and love, three things that will matter into eternity. When our lives are marked by faith, hope and love, others see what following Jesus really looks like. We have a hope they will want. As we live out this hope, we will "encourage one another and build each other up" ([1 Thessalonians 5:11](#)).

TODAY: Today's passage calls us to encourage others ([v. 11](#)) in light of Christ's work in us ([vv. 6-10](#)). We live in a world where it is easy to be discouraged and defeated. But the return of Christ is our motivation to make a difference. Who do you need to encourage? Who do you need to build up? Write them a note or send them a text. Don't let the weekend go by without doing this.

Looking for tools to share the Gospel confidently in your everyday interactions? We have a 90-minute course on May 29 available—don't hesitate to equip yourself and register for [Sharing Your Faith!](#)



Day 5 [Ephesians 4:17-24](#) | Question 18: Human Depravity

Question: What does it mean that humans are depraved?

Answer: Human depravity means that, without Christ, we are incapable of pleasing God and are affected by sin in every aspect of our being.

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Ephesians 4:18

Paul describes sin's devastating effects. Those without Christ have darkened understanding and hardened hearts, separated from God's life. In several passages Paul's teaching on human depravity reveals sin's effect on humanity—minds are blinded ([2 Corinthians 4:4](#)), emotions are defiled ([Romans 1:21](#)) and wills are enslaved to sin ([Romans 6:20](#)). Without divine intervention, people are incapable of pleasing God. The consequence is spiritual death—estrangement from God in this life and the next. The estrangement isn't merely due to bad behavior but a fundamental brokenness, leaving humanity helpless to restore the relationship with the Creator.

Understanding our inability to save ourselves magnifies God's grace. We don't just need improvement—we need resurrection. God provides this through Jesus, reconciling believers to himself and moving them from estrangement to peace. Ultimately, he promises to eliminate sin completely after Christ's return. Recognizing our depravity keeps us humble, grateful and dependent on God's Spirit. It reminds us that any goodness in us comes not from our merit but from God's transforming grace that enables us to reflect his character.

TODAY: Reflect on your inability to save yourself and dependence on God's grace. Thank him for providing rescue through Christ. Confess areas of pride, acknowledging your need for his Spirit's power. Ask God to help you live in grateful dependence on him today.