

WHEN CHRIST RETURNS

2 Peter 3:10-13

Revelation 21:1-5

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What do you think heaven will be like?
- How does your view of heaven affect how you live life now?

When most of us think about life after death, we think very specifically about what it means for humanity. Will believers experience the rapture when Christ returns? Where will we spend eternity? How do I secure my eternal future? But God's plans for the future include more. Scripture declares "a new heaven and a new earth" will descend when Christ comes again. What does that mean? And consequently, how should we interact with this earth and this life now? Find out what the Bible says about the Kingdom that Christ will usher in when he returns and how it relates to our eternal future with God.

Listen: [When Christ Returns](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Have you tended to think of heaven as a far off place? If so, how does the truth that God does and will make his final dwelling place on earth among his people affect your understanding of heaven?
- What do you think about the criticism "Christians are too heavenly minded to be much earthly good?" Where have you seen or experienced it? What about C.S. Lewis' response in his book *Mere Christianity*, "Hope is one of the theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next..." Where have you seen or experienced this reality?
- In segment 3, host Dave Bast says, "the world has a future, we need to care about conditions on it right here and now." In what ways does your community do this well? In what areas does it need growth?
- Also in segment 3, host Scott Hoezee shared a word picture from Mother Teresa about being a pencil in God's hands. How does it make you feel to think of yourself as a pencil in God's hand? How is God calling you to participate in caring for his world and his creation right now, even if you can't fix it alone?

Related Passages

- **Malachi 3:1-4**

- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
- **Exodus 40:34-35**
- **John 1:1-14**
- **Luke 17:20-21**

Conclusion

At the close of the program, Dave and Scott discuss the difference between praying as a form of escapism and praying “Come Lord Jesus.” Reflect on 1 Corinthians 16:22 and Revelation 22:20 (Revelation 22:6-21 for context) in which the early church’s prayerful refrain: *Marana tha*, Come Lord Jesus is used. Then write a prayer that invites God to dwell with you in your troubles, pain, and joy. End with the refrain: *Marana tha*, Come Lord Jesus.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/when-christ-returns>

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