

The Last Things (6 of 7)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, June 8th, 2025



Eschatology is the study of “the last things” in Christian theology. The *eschaton* is about the biblical view of the future, which comes into sharp focus with Jesus and the New Testament. Where is everything going? What happens when we die? And what about heaven, hell, the end times, the second coming, the final judgment, and the resurrection? In this 7-week sermon series, we will explore *The Last Things* and how our knowledge of the future can deepen our trust in God in times of fear and uncertainty, ground us in the Christian hope, and help us to live in light of the last things.

Sermon Title: The Final Judgment & the Restoration of the Cosmos

Scripture Reading: Matt. 25:31-46; Heb. 9:27-28; 2 Pet. 3:3-13; Rev. 20:11-15, 21:1-5

Sermon Focus: The Scriptures tell us that Christ will return and there will be a final judgment when the righteous are rewarded and the wicked are given over to the consequences of their sin. It’s also at the final judgment that sin, death, and the devil are destroyed forever; it’s when the dead are raised, heaven and earth come together, and all things are made new. In the sixth message of our series, Pastor David invites us to see the final judgment as the ultimate reckoning and restoration of the cosmos.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read 2 Peter 3:3-13. There are a few things that are worth exploring in this passage of Scripture. Do you find it helpful that there is an acknowledgement that the second coming of Christ *seems* to be taking a long time? Also, what are your thoughts in reaction to what Pastor David shared about this passage?
2. Read Matthew 25:31-46. In this passage, we see Jesus presenting himself as the Judge over people at the final judgment. How does this passage challenge you? How does it encourage you? What is God saying to you through it?
3. According to the Scripture, it's true that there are terrible consequences for those who walk away from God, live for themselves, and die in their sins. But the Scripture also views the final judgment as something to look forward to and celebrate for those on the right side of that judgment. What concerns and deep longings do you look forward to God addressing and making right in judgment?
4. The New Testament presents a clear and consistent expectation of a final judgment where God judges both the living and the dead—based on their deeds, their response to Christ (gospel), and the condition of their hearts. Take some time to read the following Scriptures and then discuss them.
 - **Hebrews 9:27** - Everyone dies and then faces the judgment
 - **Matt. 25:31–46** - Jesus judges nations/persons based on treatment of others
 - **Romans 2:5–16** - God's judgment is based on truth and impartiality
 - **John 5:28–29** - There is a resurrection to life or to condemnation and death
 - **2 Corinthians 5:10** - Believers appear before Christ (Greek: *bēma tou Christou*)
 - **Revelation 20:11–15** - There is a "Great White Throne" judgment that is final
5. The Apostle Paul says there will be a "judgment seat of Christ" when the Lord examines our life and rewards us for those things we've done in faith and love. Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. Can you think of ways that Christians wouldn't be building their life with gold, silver, and costly stones? Also, what does it look like to build your life on Christ? What is God saying to you through this passage?
6. When it comes to the final judgment and how God will judge, do you feel that your understanding is based on the NT and the God who looks like Jesus? If not, how is the Spirit inviting you to change your thoughts and perspective? And what practical difference might this make in your love of God and neighbor?
7. Close in prayer for these things and ask God to deepen your desire for the long-awaited reckoning and glorious restoration and renewal of all things.