

## Prepping for the Second Coming

Message 02 of 04 in the series: "The Second Coming"

### I. Jesus came the first time to rescue us from the penalty of sin.

"God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

### II. The Holy Spirit was given to rescue us from the power of sin.

"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death." Romans 8:1-2 (NLT)

### III. Jesus is coming again to take us home where we will be rescued from the presence of sin.

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be **caught up** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NLT)

### IV. Jesus gave us the mission of spreading this Good News everywhere.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

#### a. The Holy Spirit will empower us to accomplish our mission.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NLT)

#### b. Jesus will come back when our mission is accomplished.

"...the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14 (NLT)

"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief... what holy and godly lives you should live, looking forward to the day of God and **hurrying it along**." 2 Peter 3:8-12 (NLT)

#### c. It is a terrible thing to waste our lives thinking only of ourselves.

"There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and his soul went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. The rich man shouted, 'Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.' But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.' Then the rich man said, 'Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home. For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.' "The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.' But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even if someone rises from the dead.'" Luke 16:19-31 NLT

1. After death, the rich man and Lazarus retained their identities, knew each other and were aware of their circumstances.
2. Our eternal destinies CANNOT be changed after death.

“...each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment....” Hebrews 9:27 (NLT)

*Note:* At death, the body and soul separate.

“Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28 (NLT)

*Note:* After death, the souls of believers go to be with Jesus.

“I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43 (NLT)

“We... would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 5:8 (NIV)

*Note:* After death, the souls of unbelievers go to a place of torment awaiting judgment (Hades).

“The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.” Revelation 20:13 (NIV)

3. The rich man became intensely interested in evangelism after he died, but it was too late!

#### **V. Three ways we can prep for the second coming:**

“The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions.” Deuteronomy 29:29 (NLT)

- a. We can surrender our lives to Christ as Savior and Lord.

“But you aren’t in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won’t be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don’t belong to darkness and night... But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation. For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever.” 1 Thessalonians 5:4-10 (NLT)

- b. We can live godly lives in front our unbelieving friends/neighbors and tell them about Jesus.

“Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.”  
1 Peter 2:12 (NLT)

“...you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.” 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)

- c. We can meet regularly and encourage/motivate each other.

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

“Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil. Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-24 (NLT)

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## CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing about the future that scares you?
2. Read Hebrews 9:15. What is the penalty of sin, and what is God's plan to help us?
3. Read Romans 6:6 and 2 Corinthians 12:9. How have you tried on your own to battle the power of sin in your life? Do you believe you have been set free from sin?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be away from the presence of sin? How would that impact your worship of God?
5. Read Colossians 3:1-4. Name something you are looking forward to seeing or doing in heaven.
6. Name something you were or are highly anticipating (graduation, wedding, birth of a child, vacation, etc). What did you do in preparation for that event?
7. Read Matthew 25:14-21. In preparation for Christ's returning for His bride (the Church), what are some ways you are or could be investing your spiritual gifts and talents?