



Sermon Discussion Questions – May 26, 2024

Scripture Passages:

Acts 1:9-10 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

Acts 1:11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

1 Chronicles 12:32 “[F]rom Issachar, men [came] who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...”

Luke 21:25-26 There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

Luke 21:27-28 At that time, they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 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. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Philippians 3:20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

John 14:1-3 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

1 Thessalonians 5:5-6 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.

1 Timothy 6:6-8 Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So, if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

1 Corinthians 15:19 And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

Psalms 73:25-26 Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

Discussion:

1. As we finish our Cause and Effect series, what has been your favorite thing you've learned?
2. Why is the promise of Jesus' second coming foundational to faith?
3. How does the promise of the second coming impact the way you live? How that that impact your faith?
4. Pastor Scott's first point was "Jesus' promise to return comforts us." How does this promise comfort you?
5. Read John 14:1-3. What does the promise of heaven mean to you?
6. Pastor Scott's second point was "Jesus' promise to return prepares us." He then used this quote from Smith Wigglesworth: "It is better to live ready than to get ready!" What does it mean to you to live ready? What does that look like?
7. Pastor Scott's last point was "Jesus' promise to return focuses us." How does being focused on Jesus change the way approach life?

Next Steps:

Pastor Scott ended with this:

Let the value of Jesus' return be the value that shapes your living today, and keep telling yourself that the difficulties of today will someday completely pass away.

Belief in eternity can clarify your values and renew your hope.

Pray that God, by his grace, will help you remember forever right here, right now.

Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

Psalm 73: 25-26 (NLT)

What does it mean to desire God more than anything this earth has to offer? Is this your desire? What steps can you take this week to make this your desire?