



The Last Things May 31, 2020

What We Believe
An eight-week series on Valley's Statement of Beliefs

How appropriate to end our sermon series with a brief study of the "The Last Things" – the second coming of Christ, the final judgment, and our hope for eternity.

THE LAST THINGS — We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked. (John 5:28,29; Rev. 20:1-15; II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:31-46)

The King is Coming Back

[Q] From the following passages: What do you learn about Jesus' return?

John 14:1–3

Acts 1:11

James 5:8

Matthew 24:30–36

Revelation 19:11–16

[Q] What is reassuring to you? Why?

[Q] What is troubling to you? Why?

*He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
Revelation 22:20*

It is important to remember in any study of the end times that God has not revealed all the specific timing of His plans.

The Final Judgment

[Q] From the following passages, what do you learn about the final judgment? What will happen? Who is going to do the judging?

Hebrews 9:27–28

Matthew 16:27

Revelation 20:11–15

2 Thessalonians 1:7–10

2 Peter 3:1-10

[Q] How has God been gracious in warning the world of eternal punishment?

Believers will also be judged, at a different judgment called the “judgment seat of Christ” (Romans 14:10), but since Christ’s righteousness has been imputed to us and our names are written in the Book of Life, we will be rewarded, not punished, according to our deeds. – gotquestions.org/final-judgment

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; Romans 14:10

Pause and pray, thanking God for salvation and for salvation for those who don't know Him yet.

The Hope of Glory

[Q] How can you wait for the end times wisely and constructively? Where do you look for hope? Read the following passages:

1 Peter 1:13

2 Peter 3:11-18

Hebrew 10:24-25

*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11*

[Q] Read Revelation 21:1-5. What are you looking forward to the most? How can heaven help you to persevere now?

Hope is one of the theological virtues ... a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism but one of the things Christians are meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave this present world. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were those who thought the most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at heaven and you will get earth "thrown in"; aim at earth and you will get neither.

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

[Q] What practical steps can you take today to be ready for the coming of Jesus?

Reach out this week to another Christian who you know is in difficult life circumstances. Encourage that person with the hope and joy of heaven and the presence of Jesus.

This week, read:

- Matthew 24 - 25
- 2 Peter 3
- 1 Thessalonians 4 -5
- 1 Corinthians 15
- Revelation 19 - 22

Take it Further: Read the article by Randy Alcorn: desiringgod.org/articles/heaven-would-be-hell-without-god and the book, *Heaven*, by Randy Alcorn.