



“Part 3, Chapter 5: The Family Meal”

May 15

Discussion Questions

1. When you are feeling discouraged or disappointed, how do you usually try to cheer yourself up? In what healthy and unhealthy ways do people usually handle discouragement and disappointment?
2. In what ways can churches (and individual Christians) have an unhealthy interest in the end of the world, or an unhealthy ignoring of it? Why do you think the end of the world and Jesus's second coming are mentioned so frequently in the New Testament?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 and 5:10-11. Why does Paul think that his teaching on the second coming and the end of the world will be an encouragement to Christians? How might it be an encouragement for you?
4. Jenny talked about how remembering the second coming of Jesus and the end of the world can help us forgive other people and give us hope in times of suffering. Do you find that compelling and how might it impact your daily life? Think about a person that you need to forgive – pray for them and pray for strength to forgive, this coming week.
5. How can you be spiritually alert and alive to the fact that Jesus could return at any moment? What impact could that have on your personal finances and your relationships?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Believers Who Have Died

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Day of the Lord

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.