

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
Coming Ready or Not
Sermon 10th April 2010
Wayne Krause

Small Group Study for Week of April 10-16

The Big Idea

What we believe will affect the way we live. Belief in a secret rapture (Jesus takes His church to heaven secretly) or in a second coming that is an experience the whole world knows about can influence how you live. We are to live as if Jesus is coming tomorrow and plan as if His coming is a thousand years away.

Group Reads Matthew 24: 1-14 (pages 677,8)

Questions

1. Write down the signs of Jesus coming mentioned here?
2. Which of them haven't been fulfilled?
3. When the Bible says the gospel is to be preached in the whole world, does that mean it just needs to be said out loud (preached) everywhere? Will people need to understand it? If they do, what does that mean for how we do church and live our lives?

Group Reads: Please read question 3 before you read the passages.

Matthew 24:26-31 and 36-44 along with 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 (page 811), Acts 1:9-11 (page 745) and Revelation 1:7 (page 842)

Questions

3. Write the additional signs or duplication of signs of Jesus coming on your list
4. What do you make of the passage in Revelation 1 that those who pierced Jesus would see His coming?

Group Reads: Matthew 24:36-41 (page 678)

Comment: This passage is in the midst of all the physical signs of Jesus coming. This passage, along with the separating of the last part of the time prophecy in Daniel 9 that deals with Christ's death and putting it, not at the time of Christ but at the end of time, is the main basis for what we call the secret rapture. The secret rapture basically means that before Christ comes visibly He comes silently and takes the church to heaven. Over the next three and a half or seven years people go through tribulation but have a second chance to be saved.

5. How could my belief that Jesus is coming again, with everyone seeing and hearing Him after a time of trouble, but when I least expect Him affect the way I should live?
6. How could a belief that Jesus is coming silently to take Christians to heaven and those who aren't saved have a second chance over a few years to be saved, influence the way we might live?

Group Reads: Matthew 25:1-13 (page 678,9) This parable is about the second coming of Jesus.

7. What is the difference between the wise virgins and the foolish virgins?
8. What does the fact that they all sleep tell you about the second coming?
9. How then should we live?