
Acts 1:1-11: Jesus will return "in like manner", in the same way, that He was taken up into heaven after His resurrection. Psalm 47, Daniel 7:13-14

The Return of Christ or The Second Coming of Christ is a very important truth that each one of you should know from the scriptures, and while there are some things hard to understand, there are clear and plain things to understand about the return of Christ as well.

Before we begin this short series, I encourage you to study the Word of God for yourself, ground yourself in the scriptures, and BELIEVE the scriptures for yourself..... not what you've HEARD AND NOT studied for yourself.

Every Sunday, you should go home and study what you've heard from this pulpit in the light of God's Word. 2 Timothy 2:15

Two (2) warning signs that you should look for in your own Christian life, the first is when you can't go to the Word and prove what you believe, and the second is when you refuse to be taught, instructed, and corrected.

Be a Berean, "they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and studied the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

We will begin with the term "eschatology". You might be thinking, I've never seen that word in the Bible.

Eschatos or Eschaton is the Greek word for last, final, or end. In John 6:39, "last day" are the (2) Greek words, "eschatos hemera". 2 Peter 2:20

Eschatology is the study of last things or end times.

Before we begin our study of eschatology, I want to teach the fundamentals of "Biblical Hermeneutics" or how to rightly interpret the scriptures.

Websters: The art of finding the meaning of an author's words and phrases, and of explaining it to others.

In understanding and interpreting the Bible, it is not, what this passage means to me, but rather, what the writer intended to communicate, and NOW how does this apply to me. And we must never forget this important detail, the writer was not the author, God is the Author of the Word of God. And finally, the whole of the scriptures points to Christ! Luke 24:27,45.

2 Peter 1:16-21

Every passage in the Holy Scriptures must be understood and interpreted in context with the whole of the Scriptures. You must never build a doctrine (or your eschatology) from one passage of scripture. To argue a point from one passage of scripture when there are no other clear and plain biblical

references to support your argument is a dangerous method of interpretation and it will lead you into error.

2 Peter 3:16-17

If you're in a passage that's hard to understand, don't try to force your own thoughts or opinions into the passage or distort and twist it into saying what God never intended it to say. LEAVE IT BE until the Spirit of God sheds more light upon it through your study of the whole of the Bible.

2 Peter 1:20-21: What this passage means is that God's Word is NOT the private and conjured-up opinions of the prophets and apostles, but holy men of God wrote it as the Spirit of God carried them along! That is, every Word of God was divinely inspired! Therefore, we must be careful not to carelessly misinterpret it.

Every Foundational/Biblical truth taught in the Word of God has more than one passage of scripture to confirm it as truth. One witness (or one verse) is not good enough to build a doctrine on!

And always remember this, the difficult and hard-to-understand passages, if they are to be made clear, it will be through the plain and easily understood passages, never the other way around.

In the Word, many passages are to be understood literally, but many are symbolic, they signify spiritual things.

Revelation 20:1-3

Learn the plain and easy things first! In first grade, they don't start you off with Algebra and Calculus, but with $1 + 1 = 2$.

Think about playing football when you were a kid: If any of us went into the huddle and we heard: Gun Flex Right Stack Dragon Smoke Kill Turbo Right - On One! So often, in Christian circles, this is how eschatology sounds when it is presented to us!

Finally, always keep in mind that the Word of God is a book of progressive revelation. There will always be more clarity and clearness in the NT and in later revelations of the Word than in the older OT passages. The best commentary of the OT is the NT.

Augustine wrote: "The Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed". Conversely, "The New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament" scriptures. Psalm 119:105

For the remainder of our time, I want to read to you passages that teach the return of Christ and the end of the age.

I want you to listen to what is clear, plain, and easy for you to understand.

Matthew 13:24-30, and then the explanation Matthew 13:34-43.

What did you see? The field is the world, the good seed are Christians, (the righteous), and the tares or weeds, which were planted or sown by the devil in the field or world are the wicked.

But then there is "a great harvest" which the Lord taught us "is the end of the world" (or the end of the age). The reapers are the angels of God. The tares (weeds) or the wicked are gathered first, they are bundled and burned. Then the wheat is gathered into the good man's (Christ's) barn.

Next: Matthew 25:31-46

From Matthew 13: When Christ returns, it will be the end of the world, or as it means, the end of the age. It will be the great harvest of souls, when the angels of God, (who are the reapers) shall gather up both the wicked and righteous, and the angels will separate the wicked from among the righteous, the righteous shall be gathered to Christ, but the wicked will be bundled and burned.

From Matthew 25: All of the righteous and wicked will be summoned to the judgment of the great day! (V32)

What should the doctrine of the return of Christ do in you as a child of God? 2 Peter 3:9-14

The basic truth of the return of Jesus Christ from the scriptures is NOT hard to understand. There are indeed things about the return of Christ that ARE hard to understand, some things we may never know and understand until Christ does return.

But don't complicate the Word, study it for yourself, and remember, the plain and clear passages will help you to understand the more difficult passages.