

5. Jesus speaks a lot about a coming judgment and it can be frightening and ominous.. But what does he say about his own mission that brings us hope and comfort?

6. How does the earthiness of creations and new creation speak to our life of daily discipleship?

7. How can you live more in the hope of Christ's return (that is, how can you keep that vision alive and active in your daily life)

Room of Marvels
(A Series on Foundational Bible Doctrines)

"The Throne Key: The Doctrine of Last Things"

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

What is essential to know about last things (the New Creation)?

1. The Death Killer's _____
Clarity comes in the _____.
The context of 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Paul writes verses 16-17 to help the believers in Thessalonica understand that those who die in Christ will not miss out when Christ returns. It's a word of encouragement that can mitigate their _____.

The actual mechanics and timing of the Lord's return are shrouded in _____. This is intentional. When it comes to the return of Christ, we need to keep the main things the main things.

Mark 13: ³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

2. The Last _____

Jesus spoke of last _____ quite often.

Jesus spoke of _____ out the good or acceptable from the bad or unacceptable. (Matthew 13:24-30; 25:31-46)

Jesus also spoke in terms of _____. (Luke 13:26-30)

Even Paul speaks of judgment based on our _____.

Romans 2: ⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will repay each person according to what they have done."

Jesus and Paul are making a few important points:

- God is _____, therefore he will judge.
- Our actions matter to God and have _____.
- On our own merit, we're _____.
- We need God's grace through Christ and the _____ of Christ's righteousness. (Mark 10:45; Matthew 9:11-13; Luke 18:9-14; Romans 3:21-26).
- Even believers works will be judged, although they will _____ God's wrath. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)
- Martin Luther: "Faith is a living, restless thing. It cannot be inoperative. We are not saved by works; but if there be no works, there must be something amiss with faith."

3. The New _____

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. If you attended church growing up, what was the emphasis when it talked about the second coming of Christ and last things?
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. How the context clarify the content (in other words, what was going on in Thessalonica that precipitated these words)?
4. Read Mark 13:32-34. Where does Jesus put the emphasis regarding his return (in other words, what is the application of his teaching on his second coming in this passage)?