



Jeremy White, Lead Pastor
Valley Church

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Week 1 – The Importance of Prophecy

Introduction:

Are we living in the last days? Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5 and decide for yourself...

Why Should I Care About Biblical Prophecy?

1. It _____ me that God is ultimately in _____
Daniel 2:20-22, Ephesians 1:11
2. It _____ that the Bible is _____
Hebrews 1:1
3. It _____ a passion to reach people with the _____
Acts 1:7-8, 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-9
4. It _____ the purpose of my _____
1 John 3:3, Revelation 19:6-7
5. It _____ within me a perspective of _____
Titus 2:11-13

The Big Idea:

For those who have faith in Jesus, the “end times” or “last days” need not induce fear or anxiety. Our hearts break when evil prevails and hearts grow cold toward God and others, but our confidence is anchored in everything we discussed above! He is in charge, His Word is reliable and our lives fall into alignment with the things He cares about most...reaching lost souls and sharing His love with the world.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS OR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. In your experience as a believer in Jesus, how have you typically felt about the so-called “end-times” or “last-days” according to your understanding of Biblical prophecy? Has it encouraged you? Scared you? Confused you? Discuss and reflect on these things...

Ponderings:

2. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5 again. As you ponder the descriptions laid out in these verses, are you moved to believe that we in the twenty-first century are indeed living in the final stretch of the “last days” – or do you think otherwise? Share your thoughts respectfully among the group...

3. The history of this fallen planet is marked by so many evils and atrocities – from unjust wars and abuses of power...to slavery and genocide...to Marxist and communist control and beyond. In spite of much progress, such evils continue to abound. Do you ever ask yourself why God continues to hold off on sending Jesus back to the earth? Discuss...

4. How does the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy undergird and elevate our confidence in the reliability of Scripture?

5. If you knew Jesus was going to return next Wednesday at 9:27pm, how would that knowledge impact your priorities between now and then? Why do you believe God has NOT chosen to reveal the exact day or hour to us?

6. Read Titus 2:11-13 as a group. In what way(s) is the prospect of Christ's soon return our “blessed hope?” How exactly does the grace of God work in teaching us to say “no” to ungodliness and to live “upright and godly” lives?

Promptings:

7. On a scale of 1-10, how significant should the anticipation of Christ's return be in your daily life? How do we live in such a way that we are actively longing for His appearing, while at the same time not becoming so obsessed that we minimize the blessings of living in His presence each day here on earth as we currently know it? Share your thoughts and wisdom on this matter...