

INTRODUCTION:

As the world races into this new millennium, have you ever considered what our greatest need is? What do men and women living in the twenty-first century need most? If you were starving to death, it might be food. If you were homeless, it might be a place to live. If disease ravaged your body, it might be medicine. If you were lonely and discouraged, it might be love.

Is there one thing that, if you had it, could take you through any difficulty you might face in life? Is there one thing that can make the human spirit soar? All over the world people are desperately looking for hope. Someone has well said, "What oxygen is to the lungs, hope is to the human spirit." Hope buoys up our spirits. It lifts our vision from what is to what will be. It is a candle in the darkness. It provides encouragement for the future. The Bible is filled with the best hope of all—the hope of our Lord's return.

1. Why do you think some Christians are afraid of the second coming of Jesus Christ? What reasons could you give to be afraid?
2. READ: John 14:1-3. What hopeful promise did Jesus give here?
3. READ: Titus 2:11-13
 - a. What does the apostle Paul call the second coming of Christ?
 - b. In what ways is the return of Christ 'the blessed hope'?
4. READ: 1 Samuel 2:10; 1 Chronicles 16:31-33; Psalm 50:3-5; Psalm 96:12-13; Jude 14
In each of the passages above describe the prophecy of Christ's second coming.
5. READ: ACTS 1:9-11
 - a. What form will Christ's coming take?
 - b. Is it literal or a spiritual coming into our hearts?
6. READ: Revelation 1:7
 - a. Who will see Jesus when He comes?
 - b. How do you think this is going to happen?
7. READ: Matthew 24:27. What does the Bible compare Jesus' coming to?
8. READ: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
 - a. What will His coming be like?
 - b. Based on this verse, how would you respond to someone who says Christ's coming will be a secret coming?

9. READ: Matthew 16:27
 - a. Who will return with Jesus when He comes?
 - b. What do you imagine this scene will be like?

10. READ: Matthew 24:26-31
 - a. What warning is given in verse 26?
 - b. What do you think verse 29 means?
 - c. Why do you think people would mourn at the coming of Christ (vs.30)
 - d. What is Jesus going to do in verse 31?
 - e. Who do you think Matthew is referring to by using the word 'elect'?

11. READ: 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 What is the thrilling climax to the return of the Lord?

12. READ: Revelation 6:14-16
 - a. Who is being referred to in this verse and what is their reaction?
 - b. Why do you think people will hide from a God who loves them?

13. READ: Isaiah 25:9
 - a. Who is being referred to here?
 - b. What is their response to the coming of the Lord?

14. READ: 2 Corinthians 6:2 When is the time to prepare for the coming of the Lord?

15. READ Matthew 24:42-44
 - a. What does Jesus liken His coming to?
 - b. What wisdom does Jesus impart to us about His coming?

16. READ Hebrews 12:1-2
 - a. What does it mean to 'fix our eyes' on Jesus?
 - b. What things in life seem to divert our attention from focusing on Jesus?
 - c. Explain how 'fixing our eyes on Jesus' can help us be ready for the sudden appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - d. What practical examples can you suggest so our eyes are 'fixed' on Jesus?

17. Why do you think it is appropriate to pray that Christ's return would come now?

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the Comedy Special coming Oct 1, at 7pm...that people would use this as an outreach to family, friends and neighbours
- Pray for our church finances that the Lord would provide as we come to understand the expenses involved in owning our own building.