

# September 20 Discussion Questions

## “The Glorious Return of Christ”

### Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

#### **Preview**

The Return of Christ will be:

1. **Personal** (v. 11)
2. **Glorious** (v. 9; 1 Thes. 4:16; Rev. 19:11-12; Matt. 24:30)
3. **Victorious** (Rev. 19:14-15; 1 Thes. 4:16)

#### **Article 9 of the EFCA Statement of Faith**

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Therefore we must commit to:

1. Joyful **Worship** - honoring our God (Luke 24:51)
2. Uncompromising **Holiness** - prepared for our Bridegroom (1 Thes. 4:17)
3. Bold **Mission** - working for our Master (Matt. 24:45-46)

#### **Connect**

1. Take a moment to look back on your engagement to your spouse. How did this special season of waiting affect your attitude and actions?
2. In what way is our current season of waiting for Christ similar to an engagement? How should it affect our attitude and actions?

#### **Read Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

#### **Discuss**

3. While Jesus' second coming will be glorious, He also experienced a period of humiliation. How do you understand the “U shape” of Jesus' humiliation and exaltation? Should this be replicated in our lives? How so?
4. Read Article 9 of the Statement of Faith (see above). What stands out to you? How does this impact you?
5. What evil are you most looking forward to being defeated by Jesus?
6. One clear application of preparing for Christ's return is to engage in joyful worship. How would you define worship? What other things, acting as idols, are robbing you of more worship of God right now?
7. Why is communion offered as such a small sample right now? What does it mean about what is to come?
8. How does this quote from David Brainerd speak to you? *“I could have no freedom in the thought of any other circumstances or business in life: All my desire was the conversion of the heathen, and all my hope was in God: God does not suffer me to*

*please or comfort myself with hopes of seeing friends, returning to my dear acquaintance, and enjoying worldly comforts."*

### ***Apply***

9. For what in your life right now do you need the hope of Christ's glorious return?
10. Are you ready for the return of Christ? What unfinished business do you have left that God has called you to do?
11. In preparing for Christ's return, we are to engage in energetic mission. How can you increase your witness to the Lord this week?

### ***Pray***

#### ***Church Prayer Focus from the Prayer Team***

**Personal Prayer Focus:** Pray that the hope of Christ's return will encourage us as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission.

**Ministry Prayer Focus:** Pray that we will remain faithful to advance God's kingdom in these troubling times.