

**“The Blessed Hope of Our Mission”**

*Sermon Notes*

➤ **If your ultimate hope is in anything less than the blessed hope, raise your standards for what is worthy of hope (v.13)**

*\*For all who are in Christ when he comes, there will be...*

1. ...no more \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Thessalonians 1:7; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58; 1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10; 5:9)

2. ...no more \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 3:2-3; Philippians 3:10-16; 1 Timothy 6:14; James 5:7-9; 2 Peter 3:11-13)

3. ...a whole lot more of the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:7; 14:1-3; Colossians 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Hebrews 10:28; Acts 1:9-12; Zechariah 14:4)

**Next Week: Titus 2:14-15 - “The Incomparable Christ of Our Mission”**

**MEFC Community Group Study Guide**  
For the Week of May 24th-30th

**Getting Started**

1. Do you believe that Jesus could return soon? If so, what inclines you to believe that way? If not, explain that too.

**Digging Deeper**

2. Take a look at the final promise in Holy Scripture - Revelation 22:20. In light of the fact that Jesus spoke this promise nearly 2,000 years ago, how are we to understand it? What further light does a passage like 2 Peter 3:1-13 throw on this question (see especially v.8)?

**Open Your Bible to Luke 21:5-38...**

3. Luke 21:5-38 contains what we call the Olivet Discourse. Jesus gave this teaching in the last days of his earthly life and they are the single longest teaching we have from him on the topic of eschatology (what the Bible says about the end time). In order to get your bearings, read through the entire passage in one sitting. Furthermore, take some time to scan through the parallel passages in Matthew 24-25 and Mark 13. What are a handful of ways these accounts are similar? How are they different?

4. Over the course of Luke 21:6-26, Jesus names several signs that will occur before his glorious appearing at the end of the age (v.27). How many can you identify? Which ones can we be reasonably confident have occurred already? Which ones have not? How do you know?

5. Jesus' prophecy about Jerusalem's Gentile occupation until the time of the end outlines a fascinating truth, unique to Luke's version of the Olivet Discourse. What developments over the course of the last century give us some indication that this prophecy may be at least partially fulfilled? Or (to ask it another way) how has the stage been set for its fulfillment? In your judgment, what remains for the times of the Gentiles to be completely fulfilled?

6. While the cosmic events at the time of the end will rightly bring "fainting with fear and foreboding" (v.26) upon unbelievers, what ought to be the response of believers to these things (v.28)? Verses 34-36 contain a number of practical applications for us as we look toward the days ahead. Why are these particularly relevant for the church these days in our culture?

7. Verse 37 suggests (while Matthew 24:3 and Mark 13:3 confirm) that Jesus spoke all these words on the Mount of Olives. According to Acts 1:10-12, why is this significant (if you're having difficulty, take a look at the prophecy in Zechariah 14:1-5 - especially verse 4)?

8. Hebrews 9:27-28 contains an unusual gospel presentation. In the words of v.28, what is the condition for salvation (i.e. who will be saved)? Based on the terms of this condition, do you have reason to believe that you will be saved? Why or why not?