

Divided We Stand?

Luke 12:49-59 October 18th, 2020

The Christian faith looks back to Jesus Christ's first coming. When He came, He taught us _____ and pointed the way to God the Father, and provided a way for us to have _____ and eternal life.

At His second coming, He will change the world in an even _____ way by initiating a new heaven and a new earth introducing His _____.

Division may be the price one must pay for being a _____ believer. When you follow Jesus faithfully, there may very well be _____.

"hypocrites" is one of Jesus' favorite titles for the _____ people of His day.

Wiersbe - How tragic that men today can predict the movements of the heavenly bodies, split atoms, and even put men on the moon, but they are blind to what God is doing in the world. They know how to get to other planets, but they do not know how to get to _____.

Every one of us will someday stand before the _____ of Christ. (2Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27) The accuser of the brethren (Satan) has all the dirt on us he needs. There is enough sin in each of our lives to bring every one of us into _____. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)

Notes: _____

Growth Group Discussion Questions

(Complete at home on separate sheet of paper if needed)

1.) How have your beliefs and views changed concerning Christ's first coming over the years?

2.) How have your beliefs changed over the years in regard to Christ's second coming?

3.) Read Sunday's text. (Luke 12:49-59) What are some lessons that stand out to you from Sunday's message that you don't want to forget? When is "division" a good thing? When is it a bad thing?

4.) Go over David Guzik's notes below on how the stage is set for the return of Christ.

In our present times there are many reasons to believe that Jesus is coming soon, adding to our sense of urgency as we hope to discern this time.

- The stage is set for a rebuilt temple, necessary to fulfill the prophecies of the abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). Since 1948 Israel is a nation again and hopes of a rebuilt temple continue to rise among a minority of Jews.
- The stage is set for the sort of world-dominating confederation of nations, heir to the Roman Empire to arise (Daniel 2:36-45, Revelation 13:1-8, Revelation 17:10-14). It will likely be connected to the modern European Community, arising out of the goals of their leaders and the chaos of the times.
- The stage is set for a political and economic world leader to arise, the sort of single political leader who will lead this world-dominating confederation of nations (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12, Revelation 13:4-7).
- The stage is set for the kind of false religion the Bible says will characterize the very last days (2 Thessalonians 2:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, Revelation 13:11-15, Revelation 17:1-6).
- The stage is set for the kind of economic system predicted for the very last days (Revelation 13:15-17). The technology is available, and the need is present.
- None of these guarantees that the return of Jesus is soon. It is possible that in the wisdom of God, the time is not soon – yet, if that were the case, God would have to allow the same kind of circumstances that mark our present age to assemble again at a later time.

5.) Take some time to pray for one another.