

## **OPENING QUESTION**

The study of the end times is called **eschatology**. Some of us love anything that has to do with the future, heaven and the return of Christ. We might label ourselves as “**Eschatological Enthusiasts**”. Others of us have little interest in such things; we live in the now and are simply not attracted to such topics. Those of us who fit this might label ourselves as “**Eschatological Nonchalants**”. Which one of those two labels would you assign to yourself? Which one do you lean toward?

## **READ TOGETHER**

Mark 13

## **BIG IDEA**

**Jesus is coming back and He encourages us to be ready for His return.**

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read verses 5-22. What specific events does Jesus identify as being signs that we are moving toward His return?
2. How do you see Jesus' words being fulfilled in our world today in a global sense?
3. Read verses 23-27. What is it going to look like when Jesus returns? What is most striking of all that Jesus says is going to happen when He returns?
4. Read verses 28-37 where Jesus ends His “Mount of Olives” conversation with two stories or parables. What is the point of each parable?
5. Scan through all that Jesus says in this chapter one more time. How does Jesus say we should respond to the things we see happening? (look specifically for commands He gives the 4 disciples)
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. These verses provide further commentary on what Christ's return will be like. What are the final words Paul uses as He ends this chapter? What does that mean? How could you practice that in everyday life this week?
7. Read 2 Peter 3:10-14. This time we are reading Peter's words on the return of Christ. What does he add that we've not already heard? How are we instructed to live in light of Christ's return?

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## **CHALLENGE**

Here's something to try this week. Each morning, as soon as you wake up or in the shower, talk with Jesus and tell Him how much you are looking forward to His return. Then ask the Holy Spirit to help you live in light of the fact that Jesus is coming back. And then each night as you go to bed, make the last thing you do to review your day and ask the Spirit to help you remember how you did at living well in light of Jesus' return.

## **PRAYER**

Read 2 Peter 3:3-9. Then choose one person each to pray for – someone you deeply desire to see experience salvation and begin a relationship with God. Then take time as a group to specifically pray for each person.

## **NEXT STEP**

Perhaps you desire some further reading on this topic of eschatology. If so, a good place to start is by reading N.T. Wright's book "Surprised by Hope". You will find his writing to be engaging and challenging to your thinking whether you lean toward being an Eschatological Enthusiast or an Eschatological Nonchalant. Happy reading!