

Going Deeper - Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide (Rooted In The Word : 1 & 2 Thessalonians) (October 31, 2021)



Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself...comfort your hearts. 2 Thess 16

The return or second coming of Jesus is a necessary truth if the Christian worldview is to be taken as reality. It is part, the end part of God personally intervening in order to alter the story of this world. Because reality (God) is good, right and perfect then eventually all stories must eventually be or be bent to align with goodness, righteousness and perfection. The story of this world started that way, then went wrong, then was provided the option of an alternative narrative, and now must eventually be made to finish where (if not exactly how) it was intended to. This will be by Jesus reestablishing his explicit lordship here. It is this necessary truth that is the theme of the first and second letters to the church of Thessalonica.

This truth is meant to be a present encouragement to the Church, not a promise to be desperately clung to. The return of Jesus isn't a story separate to our current one, it's an integral, meaningful part of it. With it accepted as truth, it should orient the Church to the past and present truths as well. Understanding the true narrative in its fullness properly aligns us to be present and powerful, and what do we do from that posture? We demonstrate what it looks like to live in the reality of the kingdom of God. We show and tell how God is aligning our story to His, and how He is doing the same for all things.

And so when we share our story with other people we needn't worry about trying to get them to mentally and emotionally assent to a set of ideas. Instead we invite them to see and hear what it's meant for us to have our lives continually more aligned with God's reality, and we invite them on behalf of Jesus on the same journey. It doesn't mean they have to start voting a particular way, dressing or acting a particular way or even that they have to understand God and Jesus exactly as we do. No, to be a Christian is to commit to learning from what Jesus said and did, and then to daily aspire to be more like that. This is what we're sharing when we share Jesus.

So, Consider:

1. In your own words describe how Jesus returning is a necessary truth of Christianity.
2. How is the truth of Jesus returning a daily encouragement to you?

Take Action:

This week, ask God to set you up with someone to share the story of how you and God are aligning your life to the reality of the kingdom of heaven.

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

Ben Scott