

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the effects of negative theology? Do you think there are any involuntary responses to those beliefs?
2. Why do you think God told John not to write down the revelation that he saw in Revelation 10? In what areas of our lives should we learn to have restraint?
3. Have you read the Left Behind books? What do you think of them?
4. Why are people drawn to apocalyptic predictions?

If you are doing the 5-week study with a group end here for the week, you can do this section later.

Matthew 24:42-44

42 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

One benefit of a focus on eschatology is the urgency that it produces. Urgency is not only necessary; it is an obvious response to the gospel. We must stay focused on the short time that we have on this earth to lead people to Christ, but that does not mean that investing in long-game strategies is a waste of time. We must not allow urgency to make us focus our efforts on those people who can be most easily and quickly led to Christ and neglect those people who will only be won after we invest in them for a lifetime.

Going Deeper

5. If no one can know when Christ will return to Earth, why are people tempted to predict the date of His return?
6. In your experience, are Christians overly complacent, or are they in too much of a hurry to lead people to Christ? What are some things Christians can do to remind ourselves the urgency of our mission?
7. How would you describe a healthy balance between urgency and preparation for the distant future?