



A Glorious Day

Focus Jesus is coming again, but we have a job to do while we wait for His return.

Open How good are you at waiting?

Read Just before Jesus went to the cross, He shared a parable with His followers that explained what they were to do until His return to earth (Luke 19:11–27). We have business to attend to until Jesus' second coming. In Matthew 24:3–14, Jesus explained what the end times would be like. He warns us not to be deceived (not to become sidetracked) but to focus on the work at hand—sharing the gospel throughout the world.

The second coming of Jesus is a real event. According to Matthew 24:36, no one knows the day or the hour of His return except the Father. For generations, Believers have been tempted to become overly focused on figuring out the details of the end times or have become complacent, just waiting to go to heaven. Each of these extremes is a tactic of the Enemy intended to keep the Body of Christ from sharing the gospel and hastening Jesus' return.

We must resist the temptation to focus our attention on the speculative view of end-times prophecy and instead focus on scripturally irrefutable facts, such as: Jesus Himself is coming again, He is coming to earth with power and glory, He will destroy the antichrist, and every knee will bow before Him.¹

We must not argue or be divisive about the second coming of Christ, but focus on the job at hand: to love, serve, give and share the gospel throughout the earth until He comes.

¹ Download “The 21 Irrefutable Facts of the Second Coming.”
http://gatewaypeople.com/sites/all/files/pdf/21_Irrefutable_Facts_of_the_Second_Coming.pdf

Talk

1. When did you first hear about the second coming of Christ? What did you imagine it would be like?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18, Matthew 24:30 and Philippians 2:9–11. What are you most looking forward to about Christ's return?
3. Are you more likely to wrestle with complacency towards Christ's return or over-analysis of the end times? How does each approach work against the Body of Christ?
4. 2 Peter 3:12 says that we can hasten the coming of the day of God. (*Hasten* means to cause something to happen soon or to hurry something up.) What does Matthew 24:14 show us that we can do to hasten His return?

Live

1. We're to "do business" until Christ's return, which means that we're to do more than just believe in Jesus. He wants us to serve, give and share the gospel with others. What do you believe the Lord is specifically asking you to do to "hasten" His return? How would He like you to express His love to others on earth?
2. Are you ready for Christ's return? If you're not sure that when you die you'll go to heaven, ask someone in your group to help you pray the following prayer: *"Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I ask You to forgive me for all of my sin. I ask You to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. Thank You, Jesus, for saving me today."*

Pray

Thank Jesus that He will return to earth one day in glory and power. Thank Him for making a way for every person to be saved. Ask Him to help you share the gospel with friends and loved ones who do not yet know Him. Commit to "do business" until He returns.