

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 48

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Lesson 48: End Times

Scriptures:

Matthew 7:3, 14, 22, 23; 24; Luke 17:22-36; John 5:25-29; 12:48; 14:1-6; Acts 17:31; Romans 5:12; 6:5-11; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20-28, 35-57; Hebrews 9:27; James 4:14; Revelation 21

Lesson Goals:

To assist the learner to understand the ending of time
To assist the learner to understand the judgment
To assist the learner to understand the destiny of humans after death

Scripture Memory:

**Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.
Matthew 24:42**

The Lesson:

The phone rang. Debbie overheard her mom say, “Oh, I am so sorry. I knew it would happen some day, but I guess you are never really prepared for it.” She went on talking quietly for a while and then asked Debbie to come sit by her on the couch. Mom said, “I have sad news. Your grandfather passed away this morning.” Debbie began to cry. She loved her “Grandpa.” He was fun and she could ask him anything and most of the time he could tell her something about it.

Everything on earth has an end. Everything, that is, except God. Life on earth ends for pets, grandparents, plants, and every other living thing, including you. We don’t spend a lot of time thinking about that, and that’s probably all right. However, it is a fact whether we think about it or not.

Because, even though God created a perfect world, Adam and Eve sinned. When sin came into the perfect world, it brought death. So, death is with us, not because God chose to inflict it on us, but because of human sin. All die. Some die because they misuse their own bodies, like taking harmful drugs. Others die because someone else has sinned, such as those killed by a drunken driver or a careless or abusive parent. Debbie’s “Grandpa” died, but that wasn’t the end of his life. There is life after death.

Even the world, one of these days, will end. Jesus will return to earth in a spectacular way and that will signal the end of time and the end of the earth as we know it. That means that what we call time will be gone. Eternity will remain. We don’t know when that will happen. Many have predicted a specific time that Jesus would return. All of them have been wrong. Jesus said that only God the Father knew the time. The Bible even suggests that it could happen today. Since Jesus is coming back to the world, some people will be alive and will escape death. The Bible says that they will be taken from the earth to go directly into God’s presence. Jesus prepared His disciples for the end of time. He said in the Great Commission that He would be with us to “the end of the age.” When time is no more, everyone will be in eternity.

When we die, the Bible says that we go to meet God. It tells us that God will, someday, preside over judgment for everyone who has ever lived. God is perfect, so He is fair. He will not mistreat anyone. Courts on earth are sometimes unfair and wrong in their judgments. God cannot make mistakes, so His judgment will be right.

Those who have received Jesus Christ as their Savior will be judged as righteous...that is like “not guilty.” They will be invited to enter Heaven. This is a wonderful place, beyond human ability to describe, that Jesus has prepared for all believers. It is His home.

All others will be condemned, judged as “guilty,” because they don’t have the righteousness of Jesus. They have refused the offer of Jesus to take the penalty for their sins. They will be sent to an awful place called Hell. Hell has been described in several ways, but the very worst thing about Hell is that God is not there.

Then, God will destroy the old Heaven and the old Earth. They will be destroyed so that they might be recreated - a new Heaven and a New Earth. Those who have been in Heaven will live with God forever on the new Earth. The new Earth will be wonderful, the way God intended this old Earth to be. But those who have been in Hell have another fate waiting for them. Satan and his followers will be judged by God and will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. It is a place that was designed for punishing Satan and his followers, but it is also for all those who refuse to believe that Jesus is God’s Son and that He paid the full price for all their sins.

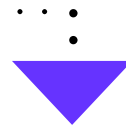
Life Application:

People have to die once. After that, God will judge them. (Hebrews 9:27 NIV) We will all be judged either “righteous” or “condemned.” The righteous will enter Heaven; the condemned will enter into eternal punishment. Which one are you? Are you headed to Heaven? Why? Maybe you’re thinking, “I try to be good,” or “I’ve been to church all of my life.” Haven’t you realized yet that there is nothing righteous in you? You and I are sinners and we deserve death. But God made His Son who had never sinned to become sin for us so that in placing our trust in Him we might be clothed with His righteousness. It is only by trusting Christ that we are seen by God as righteous, or “not guilty.”

It is not enough just to profess the name of God. We read in Matthew 7, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven. Only those who do what my Father in heaven wants will enter.” Our profession of faith in Jesus Christ needs to be backed up by obedience. Knowing that there is a God doesn’t save us. A life of good works doesn’t save us either. But true trust and confidence in God is played out in obedience with good works.

Won’t you trust Him today? And if you have, won’t you show your love for Him in your obedience?

Have you realized that Christ’s return is dependent on God’s desire that no one dies apart from Him? (2 Peter 3:9) Won’t you share God’s love with someone you know today?



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Reenact Matthew 24:42-50. Talk about the need to keep watch. Review the memory verse.

- ◆ Listen to “Fly Away” by FFH, “This Could be the Day” by Steve Amerson, “Midnight Cry” by Clay Crosse, or “I Can Only Imagine” by Mercy Me.

- ◆ Illustrate Revelation 21.

- ◆ Sing “When We All Get to Heaven,” “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder,” “It is Well With My Soul” (last stanza), “We Shall Behold Him,” “I Just Want to Be Where You Are,” “How Great Thou Art” (last stanza), “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” “One Day,” “I Know that My Redeemer Liveth,” “I’ll Fly Away,” “Be Unto Your Name,” “Heaven is in My Heart,” “I Am Covered Over with a Robe of Righteousness,” “Days of Elijah,” and “There’s Something About that Name.”

- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read Matthew 24:1-41 and Luke 17:22-36. Discuss the signs of Christ’s return. Can the exact day be known? No, but God has given signs of the times. Should we be afraid? No. End your discussion with John 14:1-6.

- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** Read Matthew 24:42-50 and 25:1-13. Talk about how to be prepared for Christ’s return.



**Therefore, keep watch,
because you do not
know on what day your
Lord will come.**

Matthew 24:42

**Therefore,
K_ _p w_tc_,
because
you d_ not _n_w
o_ what d_y
your Lord
will come.**

Matthew 24:42

Word Search



C	O	M	N	S	P	I	H	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	C	T	W
A	L	S	D	O	U	L	C	N	O	G	N	I	M	O	C	H	E
S	A	R	A	E	V	I	T	E	E	C	O	M	I	N	C	G	V
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R	E	T	E	R	N	I	O	F	K	N	O	N	E	V	A	E	Y

keep watch

narrow road

coming on clouds

no one knows when

judge

Heaven

Hell

New Heaven

New Earth

Lake of Fire

eternity

resurrection

Word Search



C O M N S P I H S R E D A E L C T W
 A L S D O U L C N O G N I M O C H E
 S A R A E V I T E E C O M I N C G V
 R K J E O U H E L R I O R E R T J A
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