

Ten Events Before Christ Returns

Revelation 6-18

June 19, 2011

Growth Group Questions

1. What is the basis for God's judgment of mankind? (cf. Rom. 2:2). Have you ever thought that God's judgment(s) isn't fair? How does that mindset "sync" with the truth of Psalms 19:9b KJV? How can we merge the concepts of God's love and His justice?
2. Have you ever thought, "If only I could see (a miracle, angels, heaven, Jesus, etc.) then I would have greater faith"? How does the concept of "seeing is NOT believing" register with you? (cf. Matt. 28:17; Jn. 20:24-29; or the Antichrist follower's refusal to repent as recorded in Rev. 16:8-11). What CAN we do to increase our faith? (Lk. 17:5ff; Heb. 12:2). Is it necessarily wrong to have a desire to "see" something that will increase our faith?
3. What is the difference between the Rapture (I Thess. 4:13-18) and the Second Coming of Christ? (Acts 1:9-11). *Do you realize that people have been rightly anticipating the Rapture since the time of the Apostle Paul? *However, Harold Camping is not the first one to offer false teaching regarding the "day of the Lord" (cf. II Thess 2:1-2). *Do you know of any other teachers who have emphasized false teaching regarding the return of Christ? *What religions do they represent?
4. From your sermon notes, have someone read aloud the 10 events that must occur before Jesus returns. Do you see any potential precursors of those events now? (e.g. decrease in morality; rejection of absolute truth; electronic management of funds etc.). GG leaders: See if people can bring something from the media that might "show and tell" such a precursor.
5. Which of the ten events that must occur before Christ returns "registered" most with you? Why? What "burden" do you have on behalf of those who will be on the earth at this time? Can we do more than just be "burdened" for them? What?
6. *Group leader: Ask the people in your group to watch the TV show, "Weather Caught on Tape" on the weather channel. *What insight does this give you as to the cataclysmic events that will occur during the Tribulation?
7. Can anyone explain "why" the whole world seems to be so interested in such a small nation as Israel? (The state of New Jersey has more land mass and population than Israel.) Why is God so involved with them? (cf. Deut. 7:7-9). Considering how God treats Israel, what can we learn about His treatment of us?
8. II Peter 3:8-13 gives us some very important instructions for those alive in these last days. A specific part of those instructions is to "live holy and godly lives". When you think of holiness, what mental images come to mind? Are they mostly positive or negative? From God's perspective, what IS holiness? How important is holiness to the Christian? (cf. Heb. 12:14). Where does our holiness come from? (cf. I Cor. 1:30; Rom. 6:22; II Cor. 7:1; Eph. 4:24; I Thess. 4:7). What are the dominant unholy areas in your life? Are you willing to be held accountable for them? To receive prayer for victory over them? If you are unwilling to give up any unholy areas of your life, what are the reasons/benefits that keep you hanging on to being "unholy"? (Compare I Cor. 15:34 in the Message translation: "Think straight. Awaken to the holiness of life. No more playing fast and loose with resurrection facts. Ignorance of God is a luxury you can't afford in times like these. Aren't you embarrassed that you've let this kind of thing go on as long as you have?") How is this unholy practice preparing you for your eternal existence with Christ? What is sanctification? (Want to learn more about the C&MA's stance on "sanctification"? Go to cmalliance.org. Slide the cursor down onto the man's face on the left side of the C&MA home page. In the text that appears you will find the words "fourfold gospel". Click on them. On this new screen, scroll down to the left margin menu until you find the word "sanctifier". Click on it and enjoy!) How is sanctification related to our pursuit of holiness?
9. Are you a good witness for God? (cf. I Pet. 3:15). Do you realize that your behavior (I Pet. 3:16) is a witness for God? How was that witness today? [A wise person, St. Francis, has been quoted as saying, "witness everyday for God...and if necessary use words".]
10. *Paul admonished Timothy to be one who "correctly handles the word of truth". How does one do this? *In view of II Timothy 4:3, what are the pros and cons of having so many Bible study resources? (books, CDs, conferences, seminars, movies, teachers, pastors, study guides, commentaries). *How does John 16:13 relate to this issue?
11. *How does this thought register with you: If you are not walking in the Spirit you are most likely walking away from God (cf. Gal. 5:16, 22-23; II Tim. 3:1-5). *Have you considered the thought that not being obedient to God's ways for our lives is to be in rebellion against Him? *In your life does this bring new significance to the seriousness of committing sin? Explain.



Dr. Larry G. Shelton • • • • • Contemporary Service

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This weeks sermon was continued from June 12.

** New questions*