



2. The Bible teaches that the moment a believer dies he or she goes immediately and directly into the presence of Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 and Philippians 1:21-23. How does this affect the way I view my own future and the death of others?

3. Paul anchors the Christian's hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus. According to 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, what are some of the consequences if Jesus did not truly rise from the dead?

4. If I were asked by someone if Jesus might return today, how would I respond? What could I point to in this passage (1 Thess. 4-5) that would support my belief? How would I like that reality to affect my life right now?

5. Am I ready for Jesus to return? Read 1 John 2:28 and 2 Corinthians 5:10. In what areas of my life may I be a spiritual sleepwalker who has been intoxicated by the world (5:6-7)? What personal steps can I take to grow in fellowship and intimacy with Christ? Who can help me grow in my relationship with Christ? Will I contact this person today and ask for his or her assistance?

6. Do I have a balanced understanding of the end times? Am I prone to dogmatism, pessimism, escapism, or sensationalism? If so, how can I return to a biblical balance? Are my views based upon Scripture, the opinions of others, experience, or personal preference? How can I ensure that I do my best to seek the Scriptures when deriving my theological convictions on the end times?

7. In what ways am I presently seeking to "encourage" and "build up" my fellow believers (5:11)? Read Hebrews 10:24-25. How can I intentionally spur other believers on to love and good deeds as the day of Christ's return draws near? How am I a friend to those who need encouragement and strength?