

**1. The future will reverse the curse on a groaning creation. Hope for it! (Romans 8:18-25)**

What was the greatest evidence of the curse on creation that you experienced this week? What did you see in the news headlines this week that proves the world is broken? How is it affecting you?

Do you think of the gospel beyond your personal redemption? How does the gospel affect your thinking about the future? ...about the present?

Hope and patience are essential ingredients for those who have a transcendent purpose? How are hope and patience weapons in the fight against depression and despair?

**2. The future will begin with the return of Christ. Long for it! (Hebrews 9:28)**

We often lose the joy of knowing Christ will return suddenly, personally, visibly and bodily because we speculate about details of his return, the Bible is unclear about. The more you love Christ the more you long for his return. The more you love this world the less you long for the return of Christ.

How much longing do you have for Christ's return?

Does the thought of Christ's return seem like an algebra equation or the return of a family member whom you love dearly?

**3. The future will include final judgment. Prepare for it! (Hebrews 10:27)**

What do you envision the final judgment before God to be like? Does it evoke fear in you? Why or why not?

Do you know what the verdict will be that day?

Read John 5:22-23. Who will be your judge? Do you believe, the One who is your judge is also your defense attorney? How does this change your view of judgment?

How does knowing that we will all appear before Christ in judgment motivate holiness?

Read Roman 2:5-8. How does knowing the truth in these verses motivate evangelism.

**4. The future will culminate in a new heaven and a new earth. Wait for it! (Revelation 21:1-3, 2Peter 3:11-14)**

Discuss this statement. *The culmination of history will not be us going to heaven, but heaven coming to earth.*

One day heaven and earth will be renewed so that it will not be tainted with evil and lacking no good. How does this thought motivate you to live a life of anticipation?

**Additional Scripture**

- Ephesians 1:9-10
- John 14:3
- 1Thessalonians 4:16
- 2Peter 3:9
- Colossians 1:20
- 2Corinthians 4:17
- Revelation 22:17-21