**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr April 7, 2024**

**Finding Hope In The Return Of Jesus**

Matthew 24:1-14

**Key Truth:** We should await Jesus’ return with patience, discernment, and hope.

**Jesus Prophesies Judgement On Israel:**

1. The Temple will be destroyed because Israel rejected Jesus as

 their Messiah. Matthew 23:37-39

2. Jesus has fulfilled the sacrificial system and there is no need

 of any more sacrifices for sin.

3. Disciples are the temple where God dwells. 1 Corinthians 3:16

**Jesus Answers His Disciples Question:**

1. Don’t be deceived by false messiahs that will arise after Jesus

 ascends to heaven.

2. Wars and natural disasters are not a sign of Jesus’ immediate

 return.

3. Hatred, persecution, and apostasy will take place among

 Jesus’ disciples.

4. The gospel will prevail in the midst of persecution.

5. Jesus is coming back for His church!

**Jesus Admonishment to His Disciples:**

1. Pay attention to the signs but don’t live in fear.

2.Don’t try to figure out the date and time of Jesus’ return.

3. Live like Jesus is coming back today.

4. Stay faithful to Jesus, no matter how long He takes for His

 return. 2 Peter 3:8-10

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for the certain hope we have in Jesus Christ. Live life prepared and expectant of the return of Jesus Christ.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What books or movies have depicted the events and signs of the last days? Which signs of the last days stand out to you the most? Why?

Why do you think people are so fascinated with the end times?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4: Do the events surrounding the Second Coming of Christ make you hopeful or fearful? Why?

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9: What should we look for when it comes to end times and prophecy? Why is it good to know these things?

According to Matthew 24:3-14: Do you think we see or experience any “signs of the times” today? If so, which ones?

What must we do to “stand firm to the end” in the midst of these final days?

How does the prospect of Jesus’ unpredictable, rapid return speak to how we carry out the mission of God?

Do you live out the implications of Jesus’ second coming? Do you share Christ with your friends and family with urgency? What can you do differently this week?

Where is your great hope? Is it in a job? In a relationship? Ask the Spirit to show you where you are placing your hope, and to lead you to hope in Christ.