

Community Group Notes from Sunday 5th July

“In”

The Return of Christ (Mark 13)

Group Questions:

1. Persecution is one of the signs Jesus gave of the approach of His return. What response did this teaching provoke in you and what will most help you to stand firm in your faith if you experience it?
2. Share what encourages you and what concerns you about the teaching on the return of Christ?
3. What does it mean to you to live in the light of eternity? What difference does it make that our citizenship “is in heaven”? (note to leaders: This third question is the most important one so make sure your group gets time to focus on it)
4. Discuss how the teaching on non-Christians being left behind affects our attitude towards sharing the Gospel and pray for the salvation of unbelieving friends.

Summary of the Message

The Return of Christ: Mark 13, Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Before He returns - 6 signs that the end is approaching (widespread spiritual deception, wars, natural disasters, persecution, the Gospel to all Nations, the Antichrist will appear).

Conclusions to this section:

1. There are a number of signs that seem not yet to be fulfilled though we cannot be certain.
2. Jesus clearly gave teaching in order that we would anticipate His coming.
3. God has everything under control.

When He returns:

1. No one knows when it will be.
2. There will be signs in the sky
3. He will return personally, bodily and visibly
4. He will return in great power and glory
5. He will take all His people to be with Him but others will be left behind.

Conclusions to this section:

1. He is coming back
2. There will be no mistaking His coming
3. Since no one knows when it will be it is wise to be ready

Meanwhile..... Application:

1. Don't be deceived by false Messiahs and Prophets
2. Spread the Gospel
3. Pray for protection
4. Put your trust in God
5. Anticipate His return
6. Live in the light of eternity (pleasures, money, status etc. all become far less important when we know eternity awaits)

“Out”

I want to host a BIG Alpha on a Tuesday night starting at the end of September so now is the time to get your friends and family meeting your Community Group – especially those you would like to bring with you to the Alpha Course. BBQ's, Picnics, Days Out do whatever you can to get your friends in your community. I am really happy for Community Groups to have a table at the Alpha with your friends – you need to make sure the balance is right so there should be one guest for every Christian. I know it sounds harsh but too many Christians on Alpha just doesn't work.

If you are part of the new Year 12+13 Community Group maybe you would like to lead a table with some of your friends at the next Alpha – think about it and chat to me!

Any great or ideas or if you want to be involved in Alpha next term drop me a mail
Melanie@thecommunitychurch.org.uk or text me 07929791382

Events Coming Up...

Tuesday 14th July - **Group Leaders & Coaches Meeting** 7:45 @ The Charis Centre

This Sunday...

Peter Vincent will be continuing our journey through the gospel of Mark