

Deep Life

3/9/08

Director: Matt P



8:15 Worship Team
9:00 Leader's Meeting (Prayer, People, Program) - Scott will not be there.

9:35 Greetings!
Open in Prayer – Pamela

Worship:

9:55 JH Upstairs

HS+C Announcements (Kaila) (2 big, 2 small) (5min)

- HS Mexico – check online to see where your support is – you need to have \$200 in. You may need to write more letters!
- College – Monday nights @ 7:30pm. Destination Unknown – coming March 10th. Invite friends!!!
- HS Seniors – give Scott a senior pic!
- Lunch today?
- Grow – read your Bibles and walk with Jesus!
- Birthdays?

10:00 Lesson: **Theology 101: Eschatology - The Christian Hope** (Matt and Shaunarie)

MAIN POINT: God tells us about the end to give us hope to make it through the trials of life as we do His work.

Hook (5min)

- What if I told you that I could give you a copy – legally – of your finals for school?
- How would this change your year?
- Would it change what you studied? What you didn't study?
- *What if I told you that God has given us a copy of the final exam...for life. Are you ready for the FINAL test? Jesus is coming back!*
- SAY THE MAIN POINT HERE.

Small Groups (10min/10:05)

- Read Acts 1.1-11
- Look at v.4 – Jesus ate with the disciples. What does that tell you about His resurrection body?
- What does that tell you about your resurrection body?
- Is Jesus coming back again?
- What will it be like when Jesus comes back? (v.11)
- What is our job until He comes back again?

Thoughts on the End Times (10min/10:15)

- Quickly review small group time (2min)
- How many of you are a little scared of the Second Coming?
- How does Jesus want you to feel about His coming?
- A few mistakes we want to avoid when we talk about the "end times"
 - o Don't be an "end-times" freak (who sees the antichrist in everyone) - God wants us to have hope, not fear; He wants us to witness to the world, not hate it
 - o Don't be afraid of the end times - be watchful and alert, but not afraid; have hope (you know the end!)
 - o Don't think the end times is in the future - according to the Bible, the "end times" started when Jesus came and died and rose again. That means you are living in the "end times!" (and so was Paul!)

"To transform religious and irreligious students into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."

Deep Life



Jesus' Teaching on the End (10min/10:25)

- Turn to Matt 24
- Read vv.1-3. What are the 2 questions the disciples ask? (v.3)
 - o Answer 1 – things will get really bad (vv.4-25)
 - o The Sign – read vv.26-31 – Jesus will come, ALL on earth will know, He will gather Christians to Himself
 - o *Since we know this what should we do?* (Be ready for suffering, but have hope because you know they will end)
- The disciples' other question: What is the time?
 - o No one knows the time (v.36) - it will be longer than thought, but sudden and unexpected
 - o *If it is longer than expected, and we know it will be unexpected, what should we do?* (Be prepared (v.42): be doing what Jesus could "walk in" on (He's always watching anyway). Knowing that He is coming back should change how you act!)
- THE BIG POINT: This earth is not your home. You are an alien on this planet to accomplish a mission - *save the world*. Jesus is Coming - so have HOPE, be WATCHFUL, and be ACTIVE (a working witness)

Small Group Time (10min/10:35)

- *Death is not something that Christians need to fear.*
- Read 1 Thess 4.13-5.11
- Why can Christians be unafraid of death? What is the proof that we will rise again (v. 14)?
- How should you act differently knowing that Jesus is coming again?
- How much does knowing the "End" make a difference in your life now?
- Why does God know you need hope and encouragement in your life?

Prayer in Groups

MAKE SURE YOU SPEND TIME PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER! ☺

10:45 Close in Prayer

Deep Life



EXTRA NOTES:

- Jesus' return will be visible (Acts 1.11; Mt 24.27), personal (In 14.3; 1 Thess 4.16), physical (Acts 1.11), unexpected (Mt 25.1-13; 1 Thess 5.2-3), and victorious and glorious (Mt 24.30; 25.31)

- Jesus will come and judge the whole world - Matt 25.31-33
- All will bow to God and have to give an account of their lives - Rom 14.11-12
- You are saved if you believe (trust, know, obey and love) in Jesus: John 3.16 (cf Mt 7.21-23; Jn 14.6; 1 Jn 4.16-18; Rev 20.11-15)
- Those who have followed Jesus live forever with Jesus: (Jn 14.3; 1 Thess 4.17; Rev 21.1-7)
 - o HEAVEN:
 - o You have a resurrection body (like Jesus did) (1 Cor 15)
 - o You are in the presence of God and see Him face to face (1 Jn 3.2; Rev 21.3)
 - o You are united to God (Rev 21.2)
 - o You have full knowledge (1 Cor 13.12)
 - o There is no evil, no tears, no death, no pain (Rev 21.4)
 - o There is rest (Heb 3.11-18), Worship (Rev 19.1-4), Service (Lk 22.28-30), Healing (Rev 22.2), and Fellowship (not an individualized experience) (Heb 12.22-24).
 - o Jesus describes it as a Great Banquet (Mt 22.2ff) - it is an eternal party; you will not be bored!
 - There are REWARDS (Matt 6.1-2, 19-21). Not everyone's experience of heaven will be the same (everyone will be perfectly happy, though). Believing in Jesus changes your eternal destination, and *how you live for Jesus* changes how you experience eternity with Him.

- Those who have rejected Jesus will face punishment: (John 3.36)
 - o HELL, a description:
 - o Away from God's presence (Mt 25.41)
 - o Unquenchable fire (Mt 25.41)
 - o Weeping and agonizing pain (Mt 8.12)
 - o Eternal punishment (Mt.25.46)
 - o Darkness (Mt 5.12)
 - o Bottomless pit (Rev 9.1-2, 11)
 - o Torment (Rev 14.10-11)
 - o Eternal destruction (2 Thess 1.9)
 - o Second death (Rev 21.8)
 - God does not want ANYONE to go to Hell (and neither should you): 2 Peter 3.9
 - People reject God more than God sends people to Hell: C.S. Lewis, "Humans say to God, 'Go away, leave me alone.' Hell is God saying, 'You may have your wish'" (Pain, 28)
 - Hell is sin's effects without God's grace. The full destructive, decaying weight of sin falls upon your soul.

Judgment is final- this life is the only time you have to decide.