

## Discussion Guide

1. What were you taught regarding the “blessed hope?” What shaped your view of the end? Did your church refer to Jesus’ return using the term, “blessed hope,” or did it use other terms like: the end of the world, the Apocalypse, Armageddon, judgment day, the Great Tribulation etc. What is your view of the “blessed hope” or the “end times?”

Is it something you look forward to with great expectation or something you fear may happen in your lifetime, or do you hope to escape the end times through the “rapture?”

2. Christians and denominations debate many aspects of the end times and have differing views. Some Christians don’t have a clue about any of the following terms because their church never talked about them. They preferred focusing on the here-and-now rather than on future things. Others are very familiar with these terms and hold strong views on them. Which are you? What do you believe about: Interpreting the book of Revelation the millennia, tribulation, and the timing of Jesus’ coming? Is he coming before, during or after the “Great Tribulation?”

Do are beliefs about the blessed hope matter? Should we be more focused on today and not so much on a speculative future that hasn’t come for two millennia?

3. Why is Jesus returning? What have you learned over the years and what do you believe today? What difference does your belief as to why Jesus is returning have on how we live today?
4. Are we living in the last days and do you expect Jesus to return in your lifetime or not? What is the basis for your belief and how does your belief shape how you live?
5. Christ’s delayed return tells us a lot about God and time. His timetables definitely do not match our timetables. Share a time in your life when God’s timing was different from your timing but in the end God did show up. What have you learned about God and his timing?
6. How do you view the book of Revelation? Have you read it? What sense do you make of it? Why did God include such a bizarre book in the Bible? In fact he put it as the final chapter in His Book! Why?
7. How many times have you heard people predicting the end of the world? How harmful is it to the cause of Christ and people’s lives when we do not take Jesus teaching seriously:

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Matthew 24:36

8. What difference does believing in the blessed hope have on our lives now? How are we to live in light of the hope of Jesus’ return and judgement day?

9. React to this statement:

Today, for you, might be sad Sunday or miserable Monday or terrible Tuesday or I wish I wasn't here Wednesday. It's okay. I don't mean it's okay today any more than Good Friday was okay on Friday. It does mean that when the Day comes, your day and days will be redeemed the way Friday became Good Friday! So live in that blessed hope!

10. Further thoughts, reflections, insights or questions about the blessed hope/end of the world?