



Lesson 7: Purifying Hope / Text: *1 John 2:28-3:10*

Message focus: Encourage a genuine longing for the Second Coming of Christ, which shapes the way we live.

1. Before we look at our text and the subject of Christ' Second Coming, think back over your life and share an answer to the following question. When has someone's early or unexpected arrival caught you totally by surprise and caused either excitement or embarrassment?

A.

2. 1 John 2:28-29 says believers who are alive when Jesus returns will fall into one of two groups (*Confident or ashamed*).

Why will this be the case?

A.

3. How does the reality outlined in question 2 crush the narrative of some that "because of God's grace" believers should be able to live however they want to? (*See 2 Corinthians 5:6-10*)

A.

4. Read 1 John 3:1-2 and Philippians 3:20-21. These verses address the reality that God will change us and give us a glorified body when Jesus returns. In part, this means we will lose our old, sinful nature and be "like Him". We will no longer be capable of sinning.

Why do you think God chose to tell us this beforehand?

A.

Describe in your own words why this is such good and welcomed news?

A.

5. Believers who live in the reality discovered in 1 John 3:1-2 are motivated to live holy lives, according to 1 John 3:3. In what ways is this true in your life?

A.

6. Unfortunately, some don't take their walk with Jesus seriously enough. They say things like "I will get serious about living for Jesus when it looks like His return is imminent". Why is such logic flawed, wrong, and downright dangerous. (*Matthew 24:42-44, Acts 1:7-8, Revelation 3:11*)

A.

7. Consider your life (*activities, priorities, habits, etc.*). When Jesus returns, some of us will be ashamed. I challenge each of you to complete the following sentences. You may or may not be able to share your answers with the group. Nevertheless, this exercise can help you to better prepare for Jesus' sudden, yet sure, Second Coming.

Complete the following sentences:

If Jesus came back today, I would regret that I never _____.

If Jesus came back today, one thing in my life that shouldn't be is _____.

If Jesus came back today, I would be most embarrassed by _____.

If Jesus came back today, I would be so grateful because He gave me the victory over _____.

Before Jesus comes back, the thing I want to accomplish most is _____.