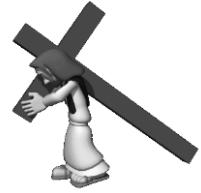


AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST 2



Introduction

When someone important arrives in your city or town, great preparations are made for their arrival – perhaps it is a King, a President, a great religious leader, or a well-known singer. As Christians we are waiting for the return of the King of all Kings, Jesus Christ. Let's read about His coming now and learn how we are to prepare for His coming.

Scripture Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:23

1. The Return of our King 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- ✪ What happens to believers who have *already died*, when Jesus returns? v14-16
- ✪ What will happen to believers who are *still alive* when He returns? v17
- ✪ How do these words encourage you personally?

2. The Timing of his Arrival 1 Thessalonians 5:1-7

- ✪ What will the return of Jesus be like for unbelievers? v1-3
- ✪ Why does Paul say His return should be different for us? v4-6
- ✪ What can we learn from the illustrations that Paul uses, of a pregnant woman and a thief, that will help us be ready for the Lord's return?

3. Our Preparation 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

- ✪ How are we to prepare ourselves according to v8? How do we do this?
- ✪ We are also told to encourage each other so we will all be ready. v11
Share a time when someone has encouraged you in the past, and how this has helped you not to give up.
- ✪ Is there someone you know who seems to be slipping away that you need to encourage right now? Pray together for these friends.

Conclusion

As ambassadors of Christ we have a task to do while we are here on earth. At times it can be difficult and discouraging when others around us don't believe and perhaps make fun of us. We need to encourage one another, so that no-one slips away and misses all that God has in store for us. Jesus is coming again! We don't know when, but we need to be ready!