

## The Doctrine of Last Things

1. What do we mean when we refer to “the kingdom of God”?
  - This life is preparation for the next, and the next life is a continuation of this.
  - God is working out a great purpose in human history.
  - Our eternal destiny is to be the fruition of the moral and spiritual forces that are operative in time.
  - The kingdom is coming – the completion of God’s plan of redemption.
2. The Kingdom of God refers to a number of things.
  - God’s sovereignty over all creation, particularly over humanity.
  - Theocratic Kingdom of Israel in the OT
  - The Spiritual kingdom founded by Jesus
    - The reign of God in the hearts of men
    - Christ came saying that the kingdom of God did not come with outward display such as the world could see and be impressed with, but that it was an inner reality that only the twice-born could see and appreciate.
    - Luke 17:20-21
    - John 3:3
    - Begins here and now, a reality in our changed lives
    - When a person submits to the authority of Christ as Savior and Lord and by the indwelling Spirit know righteousness, peace, and joy, they are in the kingdom of God.
  - The Kingdom is a progressive power in the world.
    - Matthew 13:31-33
  - The eternal Kingdom of God – consummated at the second coming.
3. How are Christians to view death?
  - Because of Jesus’ teachings about death, his resurrection, and our real experience with God through the Spirit, death is not something to be dreaded, but the hour of deliverance.
  - Not the termination of life, but entrance into a larger life; continued fellowship with the Lord
  - 2 Corinthians 5:1-10
4. Where do we go when we die?
  - Not purgatory, not soul sleep
  - Christians go to be in the presence of God and of Christ, but not in their final resurrected state.
    - It is a conscious state, but incomplete.
    - Luke 23:46, 1 Peter 3:19
  - Unbelievers: a state of conscious suffering and punishment but not their final state.
    - Luke 16:23-24
5. What do we know about the Second Coming of Christ?
  - It is a fact. NT teaches beyond question that Christ will return to earth. Too many passages to look at them all.
  - The purpose of the Christ’s return:
    - Not to save the world but judge it. First appearance was to save.
    - To complete the saving purpose of his first appearance and usher in the eternal kingdom of God. Defeat death, raise believers from the dead.
    - To make all things new. 2 Peter 3:12-13
  - The time of his coming
    - In humility, we need to admit there are two things we cannot do here:
      1. We cannot fix the time for the second coming
        - Mark 13:32, Jesus did not know. Be ready, watching

- Jesus warns us against those who do this, Matt. 24:23
2. We cannot understand correctly the events of human history enough to predict the future. At best, signs tell us that we are drawing nearer, no more, no less.

6. What is the resurrection that will happen when Christ returns?

- When Christ returns both the just and the unjust will be resurrected.
- Daniel 12:2
- John 5:28-29
- Acts 24:15
- All the dead are raised at the same time.

7. What will our resurrection bodies be like?

- It will be a body. Jesus had a physical body, he ate and drank, he was recognized as the man Jesus.
- It will be a continuation of your present body.
- It will be different from your present body – not subject to aging or decay.
- We are told nothing about the resurrection bodies of unbelievers.

Next week: Judgment, Heaven, and Hell