

**Living With Hope**  
Presentation 5: Second Coming

*The Blessed Hope*

Last Revision: 6/12/2009



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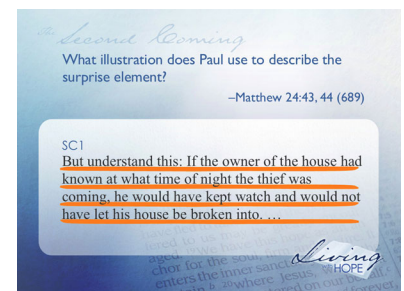
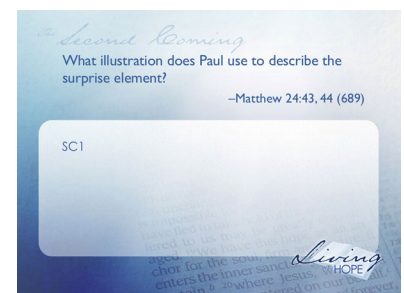
*Introduction: Play video, "Bill's Birthday," available on Pastor's DVD Volume 16.*

**The One Hundred Million Dollar Question**

Do you remember the last time you had a special guest over for dinner? What happened when they were late? How often did you look out the window to see if they had arrived? Jesus knew that we would be waiting with great anticipation for his arrival. Ever since Jesus went to heaven, people having been trying to figure out when he would return. This is a fair question. Will He come during our lifetime? Will he come today? Countless books have been written on this subject. Countless people have been greatly disappointment when they believed he was coming on a certain day and didn't. Yet Jesus made it clear that his second coming would be a surprise and nobody would know the actual time.

►► **SC1** What illustration does Jesus use to describe the surprise element? **Matthew 24:43, 44 (689)**

►► *But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.*



▶ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

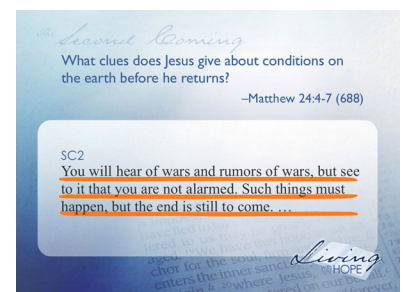
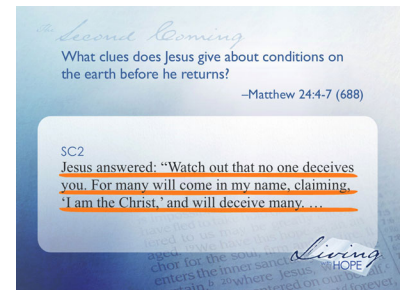
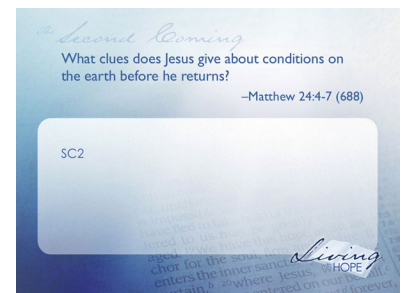
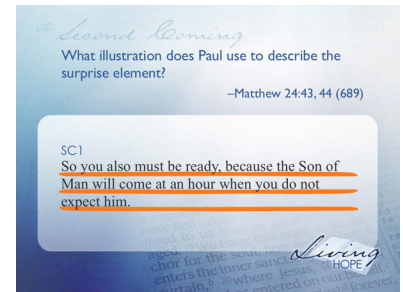
It is interesting that the analogy of a thief is used when describing Jesus' return. A thief is someone we are never prepared for. Consequently we do everything in our power to prepare by locking our doors, closing the windows and installing security systems.

Since we don't have the exact time of Jesus' return the Bible suggests that we must be prepared for him at all times, not to keep him out, but to let him in.

▶ **SC2** What clues does Jesus give about conditions on the earth before he returns? **Matthew 24: 4-7 (688)**

▶ Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

▶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.



▶ *Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.*

Famines, wars, earthquakes, cult leaders; it sounds like today's news. These are things that will all happen before Jesus returns.

▶ **SC3** What clues does Paul give to Timothy about the conditions of society before Jesus returns? **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (826)**

▶ *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,*

▶ *without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—*

▶ *having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.*

*Second Coming*

What clues does Jesus give about conditions on the earth before he returns?  
 —Matthew 24:4-7 (688)

SC2  
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*Living HOPE*

*Second Coming*

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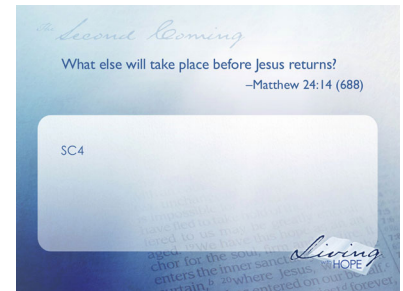
SC3  
having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

*Living HOPE*

The Bible gives us some clues to what the end of days will look like and what must happen prior to His return. It describes people on earth loving *everything* but God. As you read Paul’s words to Timothy who do you think of? Can you relate to this passage? Perhaps too closely? Does it describe your friends, your family, maybe you?

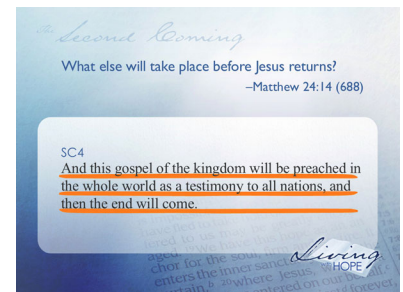
▶▶ **SC4**      What else will take place before Jesus returns?

**Matthew 24:14 (688)**



*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

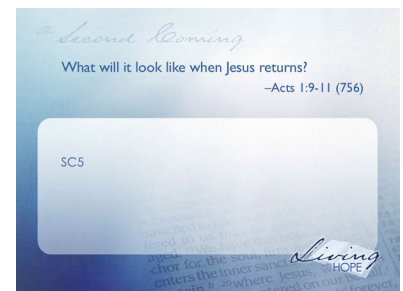
The next clue to timing of Jesus’ second coming is that the story of Jesus is preached to the whole world. It is interesting to note how important this is for Jesus. His desire is that every person on this planet has the opportunity to be in a right relationship with him. He can’t wait for his message to reach every person. How important is this to you, or your church. Are you sharing your story – how God is transforming your life with those around you?



**The Greatest Show in the World**

What exactly is going to happen when Jesus returns? Will it be a secret? What about the dead people? What about the bad people? The Bible gives some vivid descriptions of this grand event.

▶▶ **SC5**      What will it look like when Jesus returns? **Acts 1:9-11 (756)**



▶▶ *After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

*Second Coming*  
 What will it look like when Jesus returns?  
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After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ...

*Living HOPE*

▶▶ *They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.*

*Second Coming*  
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*Living HOPE*

▶▶ *"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*

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SC5  
"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

*Living HOPE*

Jesus will return to earth just as he ascended into the sky.

▶▶ **SC6**      How many people will witness the return of Jesus?  
**Revelation 1:7 (849)**

*Second Coming*  
 How many people will witness the return of Jesus?  
 —Revelation 1:7 (849)

SC6

*Living HOPE*

▶▶ *Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;*

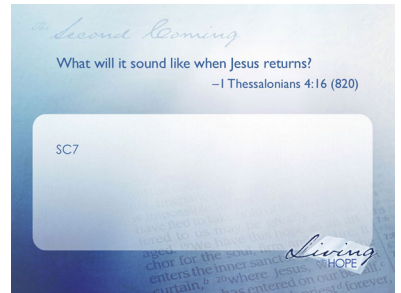
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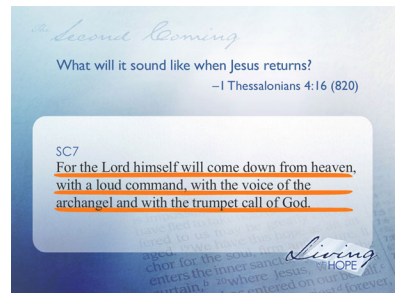
*Living HOPE*

Jesus' return will be visible to everyone on the face of the earth. It is something you won't want to miss, and indeed you can't miss.

▶▶ **SC7**      What will it sound like when Jesus returns? I  
**Thessalonians 4:16 (820)**



▶▶ *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God...*

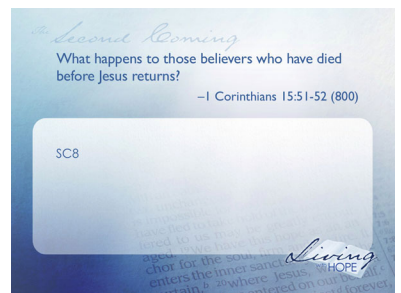


Not only will everyone see him coming but they will hear it as well.

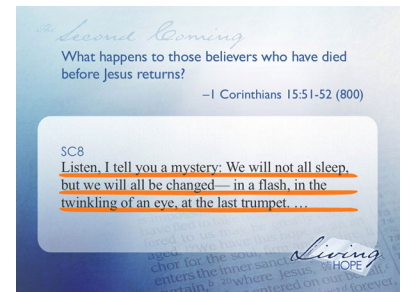
The Mirage Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada has a life size volcano that erupts every fifteen minutes. As crowds gather to watch the eruption, a steady flow of lava-like substance flows down the side of the man-made mountain, there is an eerie feeling that what is about to happen is going to be huge. That is an understatement. When the Mirage volcano does erupt, everyone within several city blocks will have either seen it, or heard it. The ground rumbles and shakes, and the extraordinary noise emitting from the volcano urges you to run for your life.

Can you imagine what it will look and feel like when Jesus returns? While nobody knows the exact time of his return, the Bible makes it clear that every human being will be aware of his heart stopping return. This will not be a secret!

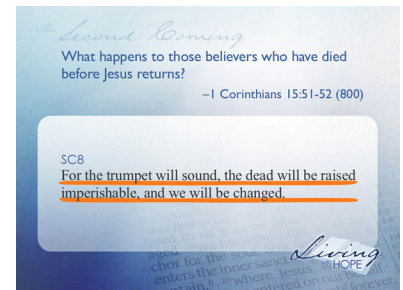
▶▶ **SC8**      What happens to those believers who have died before Jesus returns? **1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (800)**



▶ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

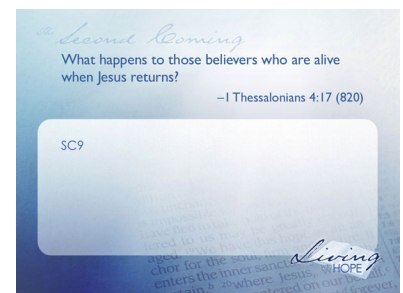


▶ For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

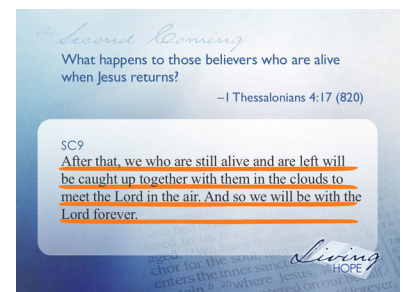


This is the blessed hope that we have all been waiting for. Can you imagine being reunited with friends and loved ones? Can you envision a supernatural body makeover? Can you picture God transforming you into a young, strong, agile, specimen of health that will never be subject to death or even aging?

▶ **SC9** What happens to those believers who are alive when Jesus returns? **1 Thessalonians 4:17 (820)**



▶ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.



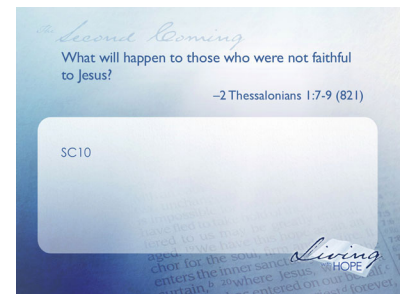
Do you get the sense this is not going to be a silent event. When Jesus returns, all of heaven will open up. The angels will be the first to announce his arrival, just like they did when he first came to the earth.<sup>1</sup> First the faithful dead will rise, and then all of the living who have accepted Jesus' name will also be united in the clouds. Jesus will call all of the people who have died in His name to come out of their

graves and join him in the air. And then all the followers of God will ascend into heaven with Jesus. Sounds unbelievable? It is. This is something only God has the power to do.

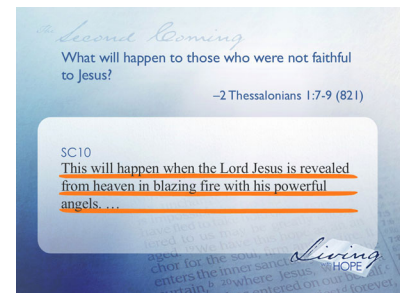
### Mixed Feelings

The return of Jesus will be an event filled with mixed feelings. Those who have been waiting for his second coming will be overjoyed. However there will also be a great sadness. Some may have family members and friends who did not choose to accept Jesus.

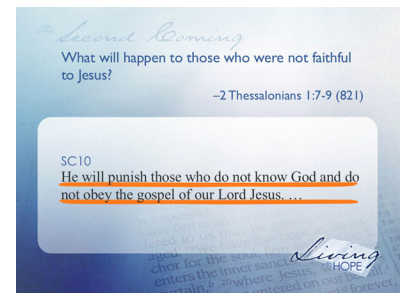
▶▶ **SC10**      What will happen to those who are not faithful to Jesus? **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (821)**



▶▶ *This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.*



▶▶ *He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*





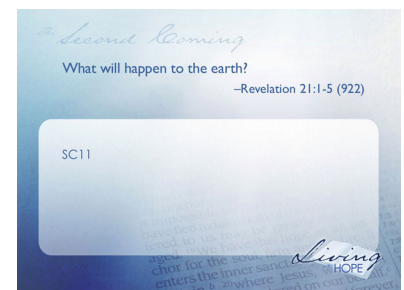
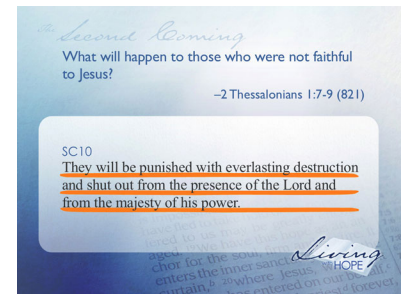
▶▶ *They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power...*

It will be a day filled with mixed emotions. There will be relief that the bullies of the world will be silenced. The people who decided not to follow Jesus will not spend eternity in heaven. The Bible says they will be “shut out” from the presence of the Lord. Their decisions and actions will be revealed for all to see, and all of earth will mourn.<sup>2</sup> Yet there will be other things for the believers to focus on. For one thing, the Bible teaches that the earth will be restored to its original pristine state.

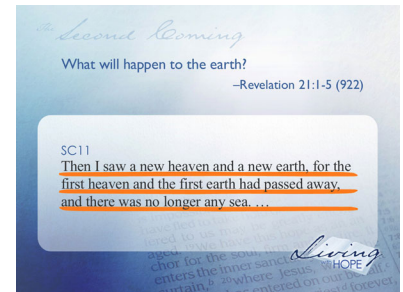
### A New Earth Restored

The Iwam people of the May River in Papua New Guinea have an interesting way of fertilizing their farmland. In order to preserve the land they use for harvesting, every season the farmers scorch the land with fire. They literally burn the field so they can reuse it the following season. This technique is often called, ‘slash and burn.’ Burning removes the vegetation and may release a pulse of nutrients to fertilize the soil. Ash also increases the pH of the soil, a process which makes nutrients more available in the short term. Burning also temporarily drives off soil microorganisms, pests, and established plants long enough for crops to be planted in their ashes. Before artificial fertilizers were available, fire was one of the most widespread methods of fertilization. The power of fire can destroy and revive land. When Jesus returns he will destroy the earth with fire in order to revive it for the future.

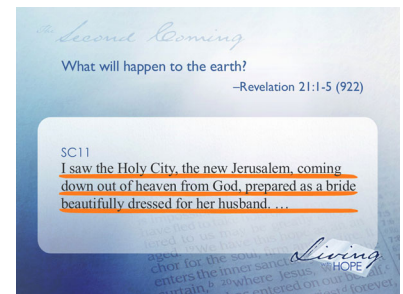
▶▶ **SC11** What will happen to the earth? **Revelation 21:1-5 (860)**



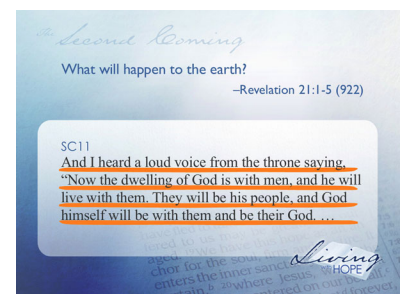
▶ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.



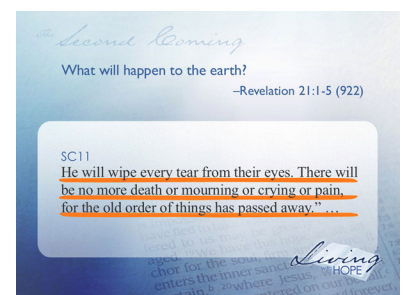
▶ I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.



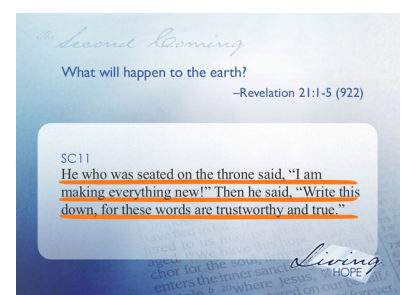
▶ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.



▶ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."



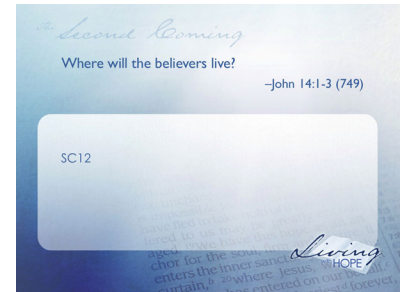
▶ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."



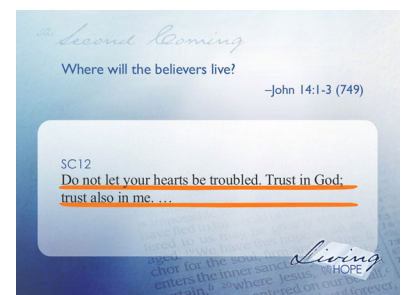
This is the fulfillment of hope. Knowing that there is a better world just around the corner gives us confidence in living in today's

world. Knowing the pain and injustice that we are experiencing right now is only temporary helps us make it through the day.

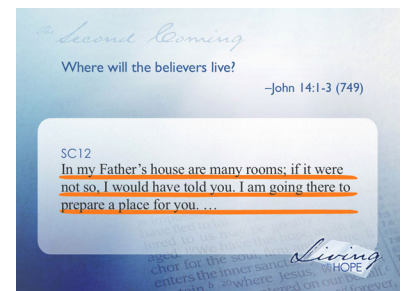
||▶ **SC12**      Where will the believers live? **John 14:1-3 (749)**



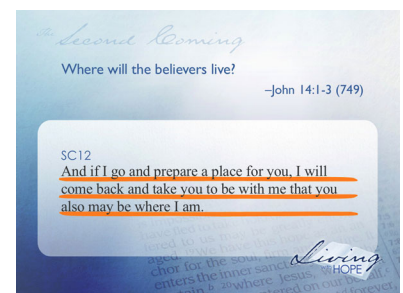
||▶ *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.*



||▶ *In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.*



||▶ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*



There's a housing construction boom going on right now in heaven. Jesus is the contractor and He's adding custom rooms onto His house for you.

**While You are Waiting**

The second coming of Christ will be exhilarating. In fact, this is the one singular event that Christians put their entire faith on. The second coming is the grand climax to the story of Jesus. While the second coming of Jesus is supposed to be a hopeful event,

many people are terrified that they won't be ready. Others are not sure how they should be living in preparation for His return.

It was 9:30 in the evening when Jim's boss called. "Can I swing by and drop something by your house? I'm in the neighborhood."

Jim didn't know what to say. He was already in his pajamas, and the house was mess. It seemed like every toy, dish and clothing item was scattered throughout the house. "You want to drop by, now?" Jim stammered. How could he possibly get the house clean before the boss arrived?

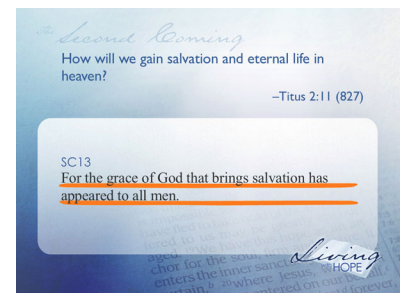
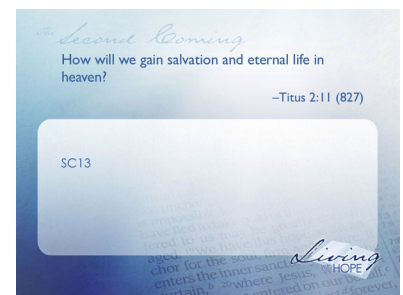
### Who Will Be Ready?

Many people are worried about the second coming of Jesus. Like Jim, they feel their lives are a mess and they will not be ready. What does it mean to be ready? Does it mean that our lives are completely spotless and mistake free? Does it mean that we are meticulously following a religious rulebook? Actually, scripture tells us that readiness is not about being good enough.

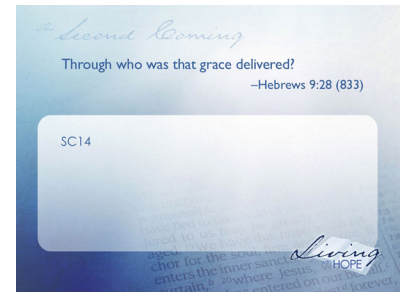
▶▶ **SC13** How will we gain salvation and eternal life in heaven?  
**Titus 2:11 (827)**

▶▶ *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.*

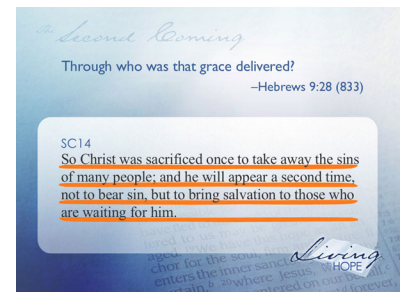
The goods news is that the Bible tells us that it's not about being good enough, its about God being good enough to offer us grace. It is because of his grace that we have salvation.



▶▶ **SC14** Through who was that grace delivered? **Hebrews 9:28 (833)**



▶▶ *so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

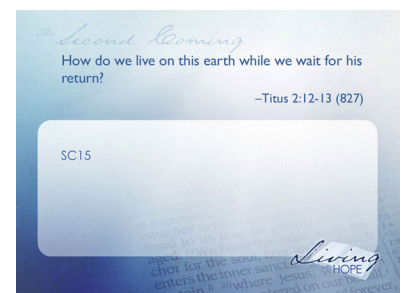


When Jesus returns, we don't have to be worried about being punished. Rather, he is bringing hope to the world by taking us back to heaven! The Bible reminds us that being reunited with Jesus is based on *His* grace, not our works.

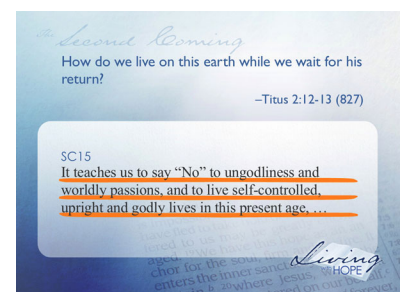
### What are we supposed to be doing?

So what are we supposed to be doing while we wait for Jesus? It has been over 2000 years since Jesus came the first time. If we don't have to compulsively follow some religious rulebook anxiously wondering if we will ever measure up, then what should we be doing?

▶▶ **SC15** How do we live on this earth while we wait for his return? **Titus 2:12-13 (827)**

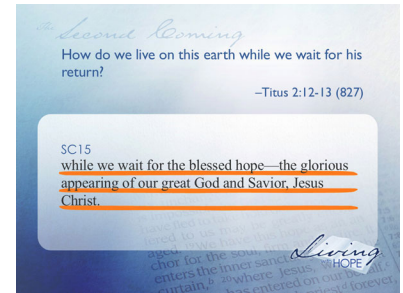


▶▶ *It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,*



▶ *while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ...*

The Bible teaches through this same passage that we should live “self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” In other words, since we have the assurance of salvation, we must ‘keep our lives tidy.’ By doing this, we are able to focus on Godly things.



Karen Tilstra, a university counselor discovered that many young students flounder in their first year of college. They have trouble making it to class, turning in their projects and studying for examinations. The reason? They’re not sure why they are there. The solution? She helps the students find their passion and connect the dots between a college degree and a passionate career. Suddenly students trade in the video games for textbooks, exchange ‘sleeping in’, for staying awake in class; and trade in the loser label for that of an achiever. Why? Because they know where they are going.

When we know that we are headed to heaven, it brings passion into our lives. Purpose helps us rise above the worldly trivial trio of mindless entertainment, temporary materialism, and unbridled narcissism. Living for tomorrow brings hope back into life today.

The second coming of Jesus is going to be a fantastic experience. It is the one event upon which we hinge our hope. Can you envision that day? How does it make you feel to know that one day soon you will be reunited with Jesus? Finally! This isn’t anything to be worried about or fearful. To be reunited with Jesus is like finally getting with your best friend who you haven’t seen in years. The good news is that Jesus can’t wait to see you face to face either.<sup>3</sup>

▶▶ **SC16**      What invitation does Jesus give us? **Revelation 3:20 (851)**

▶▶ *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

- I can't wait till Jesus returns!
- I've got some things I need to work out first.
- I would like to open the door to Jesus right now.



# # #

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 2:8-20

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 1:7

<sup>3</sup> Here is the teaching of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regards to the Second coming of Jesus: "The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ's coming is imminent. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times. (Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:43, 44; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; Rev. 14:14-20; 19:11-21; Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:1-6.)"

