

DIGGING DEEPER (cont.)

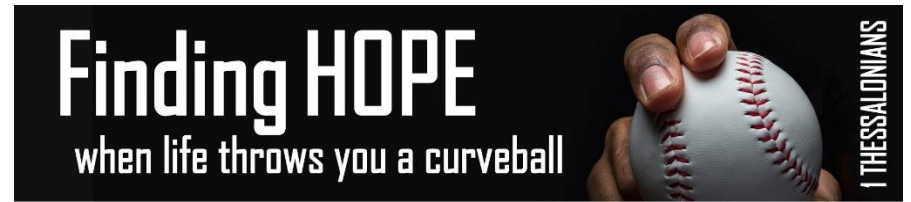
- What does it mean, practically, to be ready for Jesus' return if we do not know when he will come?

- How should the expectation of Christ's return affect the plans we make in life?

TAKING IT HOME

- Does the reality of Christ's return encourage or threaten you? Why?

- One of the previous questions asked about being ready for Christ's return, even though we don't know when that will happen. Did anything in your group's discussion spur an action step that you need to take today? This week?



SUNDAY OCT. 9, 2016

Series: "Finding Hope When Life Throws You a Curveball" 1 Thess. 4:13-18

Message #6: "Being Ready for the World's Worst Curveball"

By Pastor Mark Brunott

MESSAGE NOTES:

During time of great sorrow:

God's promise of rest (*1 Thess. 13-14*)

During time of great sorrow:

God's promise of return (*1 Thess. 16-17*)

During time of great sorrow:

God's promise of reunion (*1 Thess. 16-17*)

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

QUICK REVIEW

What is one take-away that you gained from Pastor Mark's message Sunday morning?

MY STORY

1. If you could choose one friend from your childhood to spend one day with right now, what friend would that be and why?
2. What are examples of death-defying (or death-denying) behaviors that people in our society engage in? Why do you think people do these things?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read aloud our text, 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

- What sticks out to you in this passage? Why?

- What are some scriptural indications that Paul thought Christ would return in his lifetime?

- How are hope and grief reconciled? Is it possible to grieve and still have hope? What does that look like in your mind? How could you help someone else work through this?

2. Article 9 of the EFCA Statement of Faith states: *We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.* (emphasis added)

- Read Matt. 24:36-46. How is the phrase "constant expectancy" from the Statement of Faith tied to these verses?

- Take a broad look at Matt. 25:1-26. How do these parables tie to godly living while waiting for Christ's return?