Daniel: The End Times

Pastor Derek Sanford

June 26, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon from **Daniel 6**, what stood out to you?
2. People have all different reactions to prophecy. How would you describe your attitude toward prophecy, end times and the second coming of Christ?
3. Derek said that all of us love to make predictions. If there was something you could know for certain about your future, would you opt to have that information? What would be the pros and cons of knowing? (Example: couples CAN find out gender of babies before they’re born)
4. Derek shared the purpose of prophetic literature: 1- To address an immediate need for the original readers. 2- To provide hope and readiness. 3- To recognize the signs, not predict the end. Try to put yourselves in the shoes of the original readers of the book of Daniel- captives in Babylon. What was their immediate need? How might chapter 6 have given them hope?
5. Prophecy is confusing and filled with strange symbolism. The solution is neither to ignore those parts of Scripture nor to become so fascinated by the puzzle that you ignore the rest of Scripture. There are truths we can know even if we cannot understand how all of it will come to pass. Reflect on the following scriptures about the end times. Do they bring you a feeling of hope or of fear? What do you look forward to in these passages?
   1. **Revelation 21:1-4**
   2. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
   3. **2 Corinthians 5:10**
6. We can be certain that Christ will return. What do **2 Peter 3:3-9** and **2 Timothy 2:24-26** say about why He seems to be taking so long?
7. Derek said that we must be ready when Christ returns- not ready with canned food, but spiritually ready. Read **Mark 13:35-36** and **2 Peter 3:10-14**. What kind of lifestyle should we be living now? What does that look like in your life?

**Next Steps:** Derek’s challenge was that we must BE HOLY and BE ON MISSION as we anticipate Christ’s return. What does this mean for your life? To be holy is to be set apart. How is your life set apart from the world around you- what makes you different, more Christ-like? What areas of your life need to become more holy? What is your mission? To whom has God called you to share His story?

**Prayer Thought:** *Jesus, we look forward with great excitement to the day when we are caught up with you forever. While we are here, though, give us a passion for You and for those who don’t know You. Draw us deeper into You, deeper into holiness and deeper into Your mission for us to rescue the loss.*