

Lent Course 2010

Wednesday 17th March

Surprised by Hope: The Hope of the Second Coming of Christ

1. What are your initial reactions to what was said? Any strong points of agreement, disagreement or challenge?
2. If, as some would suggest, we are living in the 'end times', then why do we need to worry about conserving our planet and resources for centuries to come? Indeed, isn't it 'unspiritual', or even showing a lack of faith to think about such things?
3. When Jesus comes back to judge the living and the dead, will he come literally, spiritually, metaphorically or a combination of the three?
4. What does our media, and contemporary culture teach us about the second coming of Christ and the idea that Jesus will return? What examples of films/books/music can you think of that comments on this concept?
5. When you think of God as judge, what do you imagine?
6. How important is the doctrine of the second-coming to the Christian faith? If it were removed, or deemed not worthy of teaching on, what difference would it make? If a Christian categorically refuses to believe in the second coming, how might this affect their faith?
7. A popular T-Shirt slogan in current culture is *Jesus is coming, look busy...* What do you make of this? How does it make you feel?
8. How should we live our lives whilst we are waiting for Jesus to return?
9. Wright claims that when Jesus is talking about the Son of man coming on a cloud (Matthew 24), he is not referring to the second coming, he is referring to his own resurrection and ascension. What do you think? Has the second coming already happened? Or are we still waiting for it?
10. After the second coming has taken place, in what ways will we be like Jesus?