

*We wait actively, faithfully with great expectation. But to wait well we have to abide in Jesus. What are some things you can do to stay in step with God, not running ahead or lagging behind? How well are you tuned in to the Holy Spirit's prompting? Is there anything you may have delayed doing or ignored that you believe God is leading you to do now? If so, take the risk and follow His lead.*

### **3. Urgent Questions**

How do we know if we are following the Thessalonians example, living with hope-filled urgency? Use these questions as a self-assessment.

*Have I shared the message of Jesus with someone recently in word or action?*

*Does my love reflect the love of Jesus? Do I place the needs of others before myself? Is there someone I need to forgive? How can I love my enemies?*

*Am I abiding in Jesus so that I may persevere? Where do I position myself to be shaped and strengthened by the power of The Spirit?*

### **WRAP-UP**

When the world feels uncertain, real hope can be found by focusing on God's promises instead of fear or speculation. We are living in a time where God's kingdom is already at work, even though it's not yet fully complete. That means we can trust that He is actively renewing and restoring things, even when we don't see the full picture. Rather than trying to predict the future, we're invited to grow spiritually—living with faith, showing love, and holding on to a steady, enduring hope. What we experience now are glimpses of what's to come, with the fullness of God's restoration still ahead.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:7-8 NIV*

**Challenge** – Resist the tendency to “doomscroll” through social media or news feeds. Instead put down the phone, pause, breath slowly, and re-center your focus on the still small whisper of God.

## **Hope in Uncertainty - Week 1** **Pastor David Hutsko 4.12.26**

### **INTRODUCTION**

When the world feels unstable and the headlines raise more questions than answers, where do we turn? This week begins a two-week series that explores how to find real, grounded hope amid uncertainty. Together, we'll take a thoughtful look at how we read Scripture and how it shapes the way we understand global conflict, fear, and the future. Rather than chasing speculation or anxiety, we'll discover a deeper, steadier confidence rooted in God's character—one that anchors us no matter what's happening around us.

### **Ice Breaker**

**What is the most positive and encouraging thing you've heard about this week?**

### **Key Passages**

*1 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. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 '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.' 5 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." - Revelation 21:1-5 NIV*

### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Are We Living in the last Days ?**

*11 These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. - 1 Corinthians 10:11 NLT*

*20 God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake. - 1 Peter 1:20 NLT*

*18 Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. - 1 John 2:18 NLT*

Perhaps you are wondering if we are living in what the Bible calls the “last days” or “end times”. There are numerous references in the Bible to last days, and not all of them involve the end of the world. In the above passages written by Paul, Peter and John, to the early church, what was their common understanding about their relationship to the end times, last days and last hour? What does this tell you about the time span of the last days?”

When Jesus was resurrected and ascended to Heaven, we were given a glimpse of what is called, “the already but not yet” reality of God’s kingdom. Several times Jesus told His followers that the kingdom of God, or the kingdom of heaven had drawn near. (Mat 3:2, 4:17, 10:7, Mar 1:15, Luk 10:9, 21:31, 10:11) Jesus’ ministry on earth had ushered in that Kingdom. This was the beginning of the “Last Days”.

*In our Key Passage in Rev 21:1-5 we see the conclusion of the Last Days with a new heaven, a new earth, no more death, and God dwelling with His people. In what way did Jesus’ resurrection and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit begin to usher in this Kingdom reality and what are we “not yet” seeing completed?*

Jesus said (Rev 21:5) He is making all things new. The verb “making” indicates present ongoing action. Something that is in the works. In a way we can liken our glimpses of God’s Kingdom to licking the cake batter from a spoon. We are certain the cake is coming soon; it is being baked, it is in the oven. In the meantime, we can enjoy the sweet preview we get when we lick that spoon. But it is an incomplete sample of the promised dessert. When we see God heal someone, or we experience the presence of God’s Holy Spirit in our lives, we catch a taste of what is to come. And the best is yet to come.

## 2. Do We Value Certainty Over Formation?

*6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:6-8 NIV*

After His resurrection Jesus spent 40 days on earth. During that a time He continued to teach, and He gave instructions concerning the Holy Spirit who He was sending to them. As they were eating with Him, they asked a question many of us still ponder today, “When will the Kingdom be restored?”

*What did Jesus tell them about the times and dates of the coming Kingdom? What did He direct their attention to instead? Does this apply to us?*

Like the disciples, our tendency is to seek out certainty about our future. We may settle for a false “certainty” over Spiritual formation that comes with

surrendered obedience and trusting in God. We tend to choose the easy fix of believing what someone else thinks over the hard work of patiently abiding in Jesus.

Every generation is called to live with hope-filled urgency for Christ’s return and the re-creation of all things. Paul commended the church of Thessalonica for doing it right and allowing the Holy Spirit to shape them.

*3 As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your **faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope** you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 Thessalonians 1:3 NLT*

Paul highlights the characteristics that were being produced in the Thessalonians by the power of the Holy Spirit: Faithful work, loving deeds and enduring hope. Basic work is bearing witness to the Gospel.

*8 And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it, 9 for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. - 1 Thessalonians 1:8-9 NLT*

*What was “ringing out” from the Thessalonians? What do you think people hear ringing out from you? What had they turned from and who had they turned to? Is there something you once perceived as “normal and prosperous” but you turned from when you turned to God for salvation?*

*Paul describes love as self-sacrificing, patient and kind. What are some of the “loving deeds” you have observed that you immediately recognized as someone doing God’s work?*

*6 So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. 7 As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece--throughout both Macedonia and Achaia. ... 9 for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. 10 And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven-- Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.*

*- 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7, 9-10 NLT*

*The Thessalonians had a hope that endured severe suffering. It was an active, not a passive endurance. How was that hope recognized by others? (v. 10) Because it is not for us to know the day or hour of Christ’s return, every generation should live a life that is ready for it. That confident expectation of Christ’s return should create an urgency in us to be ready and to be sure we’ve made the Gospel know to all who will listen. But that doesn’t mean frantic activity. It means abiding in or living in step with God.*