

groups

Study Group: Participant Guide
November 2nd-8th – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

CHECK-IN

*An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.*

STUDY

Main Topics: The Second Coming, Open-Handed & Close-Handed Beliefs, Hope

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- Pastor Bill talked about having close-handed beliefs compared to open-handed beliefs. What does it mean for a belief to be close-handed?
- What are some close-handed beliefs we should have about the second coming?
- Was there anything in Pastor Bill's overview of the Bible that you saw in a new light?
- What does it look like to grieve *with* hope?
- What did Pastor Bill say is the purpose of this passage?
 - How does that change the way you read and reflect on this passage?
- Why does Paul end the passage saying, "Therefore encourage one another with these words"?

APPLY

- What does it look like to treat one another well as we discuss close-handed and open-handed beliefs?
- When have you or others missed the point when talking about the second coming of Christ?
- Pastor Bill shared that he would be willing to die over believing that Jesus is the Son of God. How do we prepare ourselves to stand firm when we are challenged on close-handed beliefs?
- When have you been tempted to believe that there is no hope you can cling to?
 - How does God speak against that feeling?
- How can we "encourage one another with these words"? (v.18)
- How should the fact of Christ's future return affect the way you live?
- How can we pray, pursue God, and pursue others with the Gospel after the elections are finished?

CLOSE

Which attributes of God did you see in this week's passage? How should it change the way that you pray, think, speak or act this week?