

CORNERSTONE

DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

WHERE WILL YOU BE AT THE END OF THE AGE?
PART 2 | PASTOR JONATHAN BURNS
SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

Overview

Series: The End of the Age and the Ages to Come — Series Recap & Conclusion

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 2:6–7; Ephesians 3:8–10; Isaiah 2:2–4; Isaiah 11:6–9; 1 Corinthians 3:8–15; Colossians 3:1–2; Revelation 4:10–11

Main Takeaways

1. **Whose You Are vs. What You Do:** Where you will be at the end of the age is determined by *whose* you are in this present age. But what the church has largely lost sight of is that what we *do* now determines what we will be *doing* in the ages to come.
2. **Salvation Is More Than a Ticket:** Being in Christ Jesus by believing on Him for salvation is far more than a ticket to heaven. We are commanded to set our minds on things above and to live and walk by the Spirit of God.
3. **The Church Has Grown Too Comfortable Here:** The popular saying that believers can be “so heavenly minded they’re of no earthly good” sounds wise, but it is not scriptural. Scripture repeatedly commands the opposite.

4. Israel and the Church Remain Distinct: God bound Himself to Israel by three unconditional covenants — Abrahamic, Davidic, and New.

Unconditional means the entire responsibility for fulfillment rests on God alone. This is precisely why the church cannot have replaced Israel: it would require God to break His word.

5. The Kingdom Is Real Work, Not Harps: The Body of Christ returns in glorified bodies to rule and reign with the Lord, exercise authority over the Gentile nations, and judge angels. Our time in heaven lasts seven years — then we return with Him and get to work.

6. Present Faithfulness Carries Eternal Consequence: Our position in His Kingdom is determined largely by our faithfulness now — not by striving to produce works, but by His grace, through faith. It is all by Him, through Him, and for His glory.

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Citizenship and Comfort

Q1: Pastor Jonathan asked whether the world feels in any way foreign to you — and answered that it should, because our citizenship is not of this earth. Does the world feel foreign to you? Be honest. What does your answer reveal about where your mind has been set?

Q2: Pastor challenged the saying that believers can be “so heavenly minded we’re of no earthly good,” calling it unscriptural. C.S. Lewis argued the opposite: the Christians who did the most for this world were the ones who thought most about the next — “*Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in.’*” Read Colossians 3:1–2. Why do you think the modern church so often inverts this?

Q3: God’s declared purpose in this age is to take out from among the Gentiles a people for His name, and this age runs precisely until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. How does knowing this age has a defined, God-appointed endpoint affect your sense of urgency?

Q4: Read Ephesians 3:8–10. Paul says that *through the church* the manifold wisdom of God is made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. What does it mean that the church is a demonstration to unseen powers? Does that change how you view your ordinary obedience?

Q5: Israel's blindness regarding the gospel is partial, judicial, and *temporary* — lasting exactly until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. The sermon noted that Revelation 12 makes hatred of the Jewish people the spirit of antichrist. How should this shape how we speak about, pray for, and defend Israel?

Section 2: The Millennial Kingdom

Q6: Read Isaiah 2:2–4. The topography of the planet is changed, Jerusalem becomes the highest mountain on earth, the nations flock to learn from King Jesus, and all law issues from His throne. Which detail of that description is hardest for you to picture literally? Why?

Q7: Read Isaiah 11:6–9. Many effects of the curse on the natural order are removed — predator and prey at rest together, a child safe at the cobra's den. What does this tell you about what God has always intended creation to be?

Q8: Read Ephesians 2:6–7. We are seated with Him in the heavenly places *so that in the coming ages* He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace toward us. The church will be a testimony to His grace into eternity. How does being an exhibit of grace differ from being a reward earned?

Section 3: Present Faithfulness, Future Position

Q9: Read 1 Corinthians 3:8–15. The foundation is settled — Jesus Christ, and no other. But Paul warns each one to take care *how* he builds on it, because fire will test the work. Examine your own building materials honestly. What in your life is gold, silver, and precious stone? What is wood, hay, and straw?

Q10: Jesus emphasized future reward for present faithfulness repeatedly — the Talents, the Minas, the Sheep and Goats, the Workers in the Vineyard. Why do you think He returned to this theme so often? What does that repetition suggest about how easily we forget it?

Q11: In Revelation, the elders continually cast their crowns before His throne. The sermon's answer: because everything we accomplish for His Kingdom — and our very position in it — is by His grace. How does that truth guard us from turning the doctrine of rewards into a performance treadmill?

Q12: The scriptural model is that we know these truths in the here and now and that we **act upon them**. Each of us has a job to do here, now, with ramifications extending into eternity. What is yours? If you don't know, what is your next step toward finding out?

Personal Reflection

- 1.If the fire of 1 Corinthians 3 tested my last twelve months, how much of it would survive? What would that reveal about what I have actually been building for?
- 2.Am I comfortable in this world? Where has that comfort quietly cost me obedience, urgency, or willingness to be inconvenienced for the Kingdom?
- 3.What has God assigned to me in this present age that I have been deferring — telling myself I'll get to it in another season?

Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to implement this week:

Option 1: Set Your Mind Above

- Read Colossians 3:1–4 and Ephesians 2:1–10 every morning this week
- Each day, write one sentence on how setting your mind above changed a decision that day
- Bring one observation to share with the group next week

Option 2: Inventory Your Building Materials

- Write down honestly how you spent your discretionary time and money last month
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:8–15 alongside that list and ask the Lord what survives the fire
- Make one concrete reallocation this week based on what He shows you

Option 3: Take Up Your Assignment

- Identify the one thing you sense God has asked of you that you have been deferring
- Take the first concrete step this week — not the whole thing, just the first step
- Tell one person in the group so they can follow up with you

Option 4: Equip Someone Else

- Identify one believer who has never been taught what Scripture says about the end of the age
- Share one session from the series with them, or walk them through one passage yourself
- Invite them to join you for the next teaching

Prayer Time

Pray for:

1. Hearts that are genuinely uncomfortable in this world and genuinely at home in His Kingdom
2. Clarity about the specific assignment God has given each person in this present age
3. Grace to build with what lasts — and freedom from striving while doing it
4. The peace of Jerusalem and the salvation of Israel, and protection from every form of antisemitism
5. Boldness and urgency to reach those who have not yet believed, while this age remains
6. Anyone in the group who is uncertain of their standing in Christ — that it would be settled today

Closing

Closing Thought

What we do now for the Kingdom of God determines what we will do then. Not by striving — by His grace, through faith. It is all Jesus: by Him, through Him, for Him, and for His glory.

For Next Week:

- Be prepared to share what you discovered through this week's challenge
- Read Revelation 4–5 and note every response of the elders around the throne

News & Events

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more! <https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 2 - Student / Teacher Prayer
- August 5 - Communion
 - Back to School Bash (Grades K-12)



Notes