

# **PBC Growing in Christ**

**Reverends Patrick and Stephanie Burrage**

**April 18, 2021**

# Class Norms

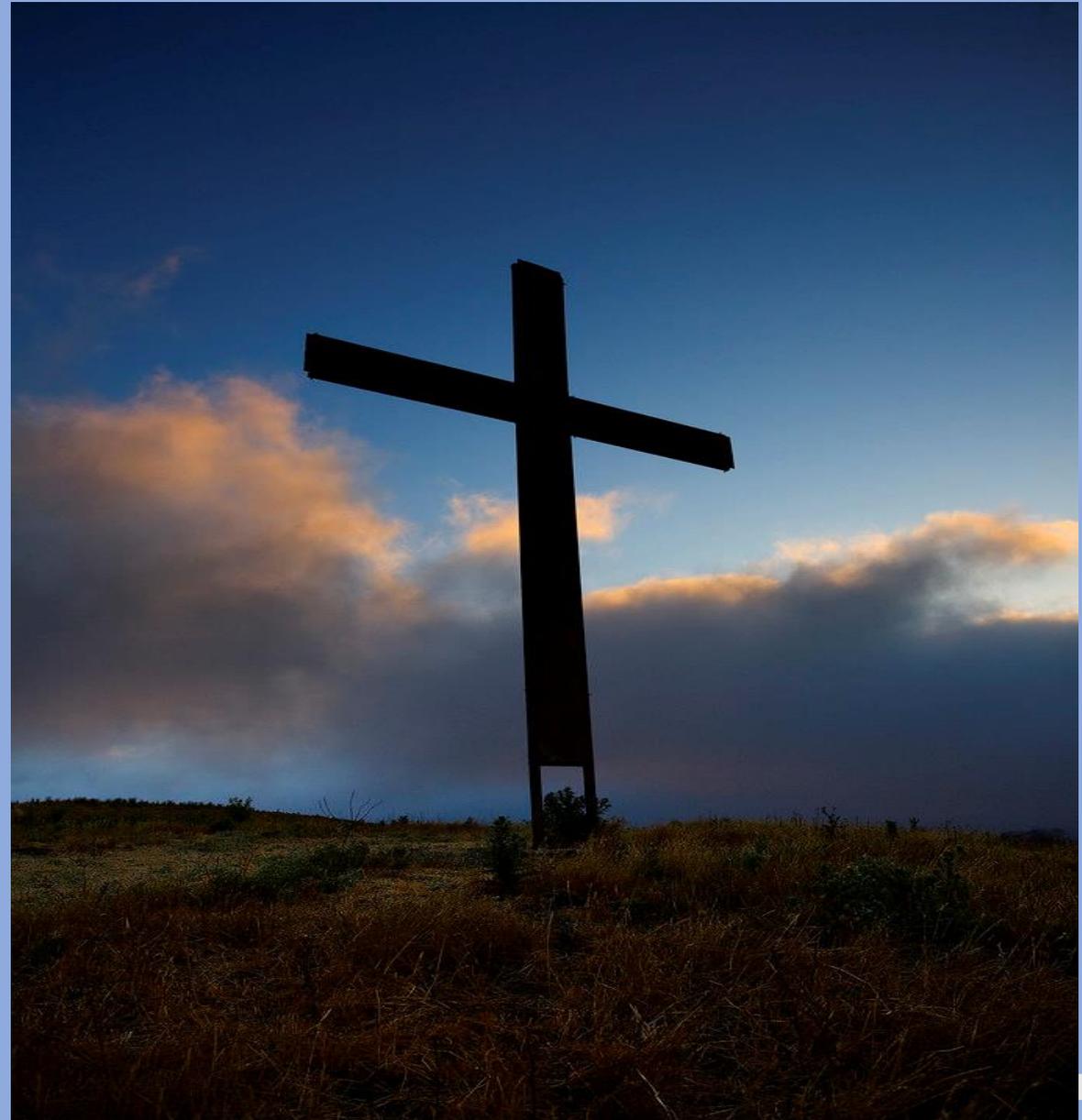
A large black cross silhouette stands in a field of dry grass under a blue sky with light clouds. The cross is the central focus, with its vertical post and horizontal arms clearly visible against the sky. The field in the foreground is filled with dry, brownish grass, and the sky is a mix of deep blue and lighter, hazy tones with some wispy clouds.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

# Growing in Christ

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- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



# Growing in Christ

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*To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)*





# The Return of Jesus

## Matthew 24:3-8,29-32,42-44

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What are some future events you can't wait to experience?

# Scripture

## The Return of Jesus

### Matthew 24:3-8

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3 While he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately and said, “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what is the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” 4 Jesus replied to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and they will deceive many. 6 You are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, because these things must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these events are the beginning of labor pains.



# The Return of Jesus

## Matthew 24:3-8

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**What encourages you in Jesus' words to His disciples?**

**Do you find it easy or difficult to resist being alarmed by the events of the world?**



## The Return of Jesus Matthew 24:3-8

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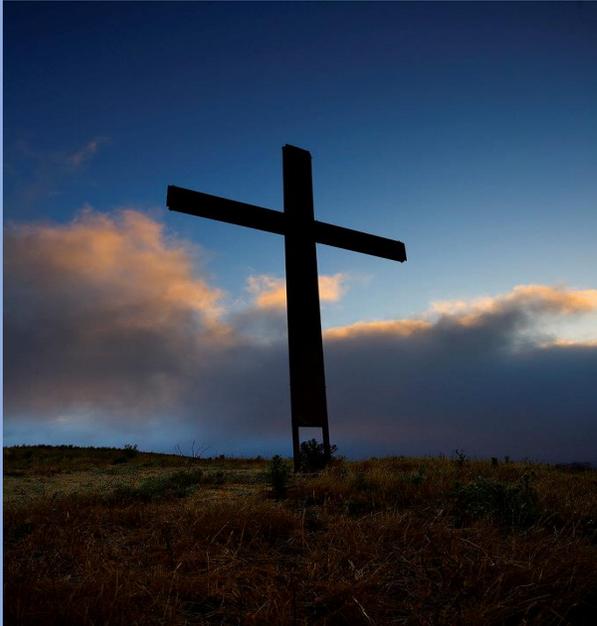
- **Disciples wanted to know two things:**
  - Tell us, when will these things happen?
  - What is the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?
- **Signs of the labor pain**
  - persecution, false prophets, and increasing lawlessness.
- **We rightly refer to these events as “the end times,” but they also mark the beginning.**
- **Through it all, however, the gospel will prevail!**

# Scripture

## The Return of Jesus

### Matthew 24:29-32

29 “Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the peoples of the earth will mourn; and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. 32 “Learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near.



# The Return of Jesus

## Matthew 24:29-32

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What does the imagery in these verses communicate?

Based on these verses, how would you describe Jesus' return to someone who might not be aware of it?



## The Return of Jesus Matthew 24:29-32

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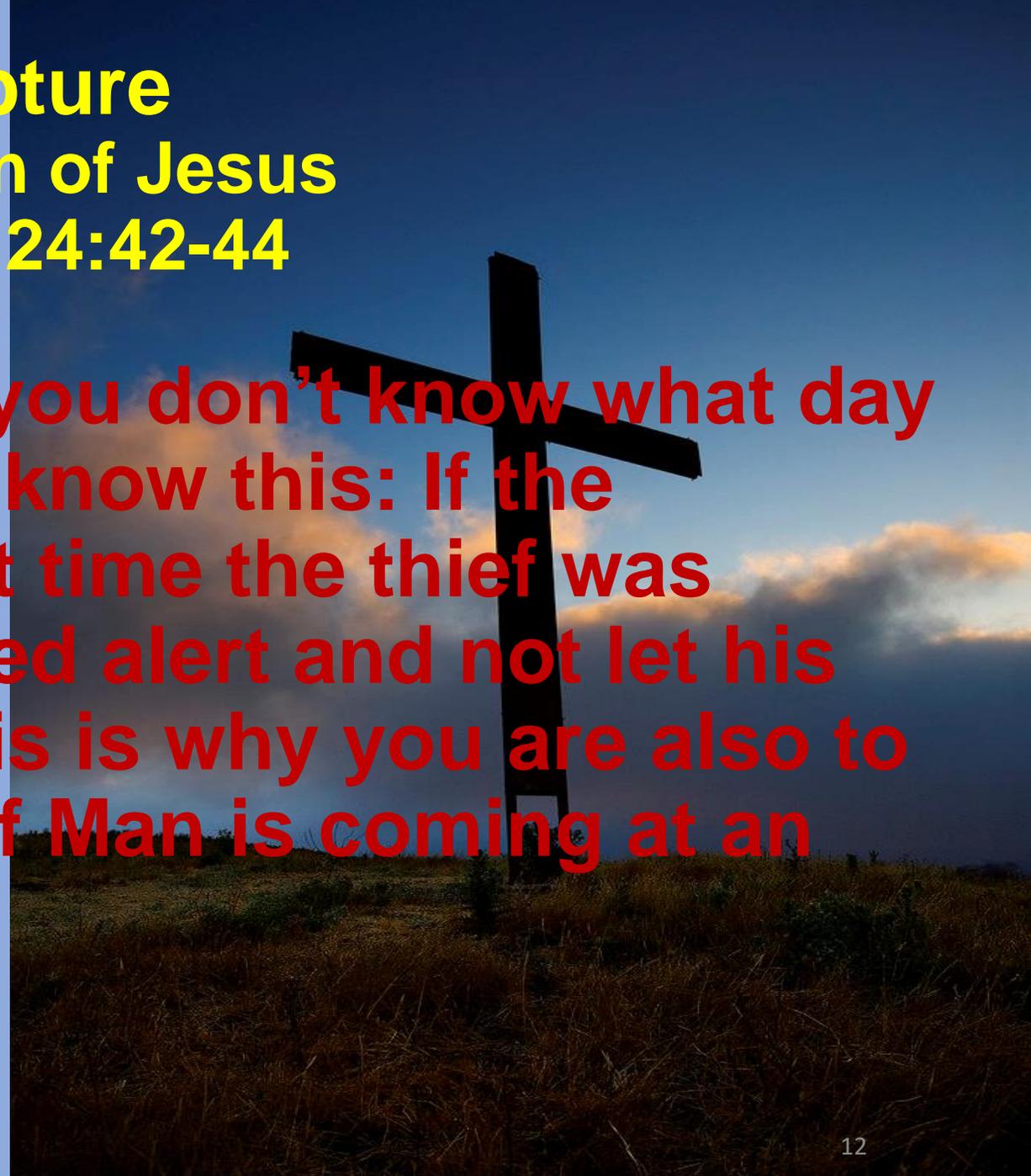
- Earlier, Jesus urges the disciples not to chase after alleged sightings and rumors about where the Messiah is.
- Living as believers means living with anticipation of Jesus' return. Every generation has expected Jesus to return in their lifetime.
- Jesus compared the signs of His return to the blooming of a fig tree. The sprouting of leaves simply tells us summer is on its way. And the signs Jesus mentioned tell us (without giving a specific date and time) that His return is near.

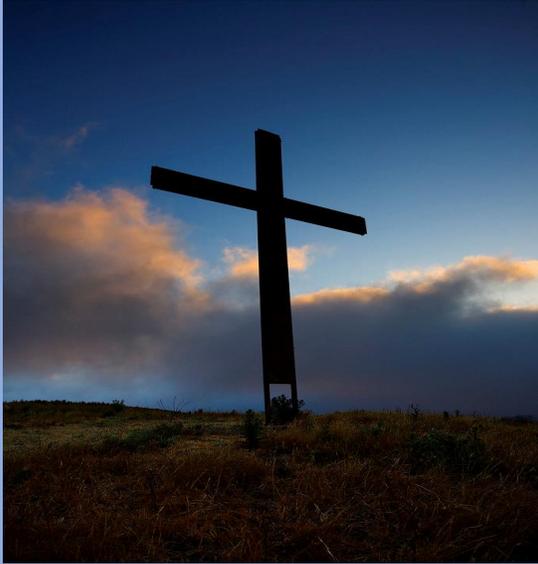
# Scripture

## The Return of Jesus

### Matthew 24:42-44

**42 Therefore be alert, since you don't know what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this: If the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he would have stayed alert and not let his house be broken into. 44 This is why you are also to be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**





# The Return of Jesus

## Matthew 24:42-44

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**What does it look like to be alert and ready for Jesus' return?**

**What might be the consequences of not being prepared when Jesus returns?**



# The Return of Jesus

## Matthew 24:42-44

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- Jesus told His disciples and he expects Christian believers to live ready for Him to come back, since nobody knows the exact day that will happen.
- Living as a people ready for Jesus' return affects everything we do; from the way we pray to the way we interact with those around us.
- Christians should always be on guard and ready at a moment's notice to enter into the glorious victory our King has promised He will bring.



# GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

APRIL 11, 2021

- **Know Him.** Recognize Jesus when He comes by getting to know Him better now. Establish a daily Bible reading plan if you don't already have one.
- **Live out hope.** Our hope is guaranteed. Jesus will return and make everything new. As you face difficulties this week, remember that all suffering is temporary. Allow this to impact your attitude so that people will want to know the reason for the hope you have.
- **Stay alert.** Identify distractions in your life and replace one of them with focused time in prayer. Use this time to pray over world events with an expectant attitude toward Christ's return.



# Final thoughts about The Return of Jesus

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- **One day Christ will return to earth. What will it be like?**
- **Life will definitely change, and for those who have a relationship with Christ, it will only change for the better!**

# Resources

- **Matthew 23:39; 24:2, 42-44**
- **Luke 2:8-15**
- **1Thessalonians 4:16-17**
- **Zech. 14:4**
- **BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth**
- **[Bible.com](http://Bible.com)**



# Next Week: April 25, 2021 Our Commission

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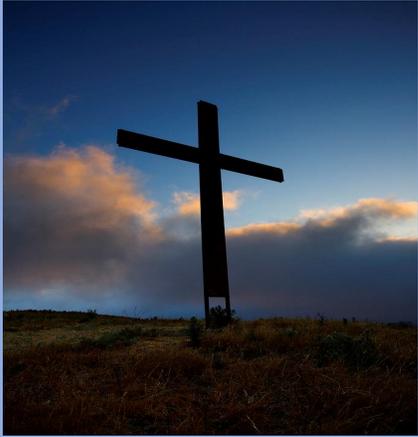
## THE POINT

God sends us to tell others about Jesus.

## THE PASSAGE

Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

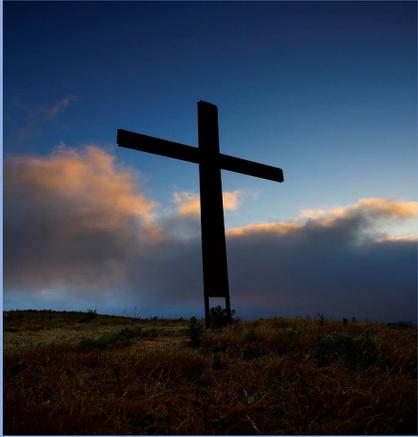
**When have you been given a really important task to accomplish?"**



# Bible Study Session Date of Essentials of Christianity

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1	April 25, 2021	The Nature of God	John 14:8-11,16-20,23-26
2	May 2, 2021	The Purpose of Humanity	Genesis 1:1-5,26-31
3	May 9, 2021	The Nature of Sin	Isaiah 59:1-13
4	May 16, 2021	The Death of Jesus	John 19:8-11,16b-18,28-30
5	May 23, 2021	The Resurrection of Jesus	John 20:3-9,19-23,27-29
6	May 30, 2021	The Work of the Holy Spirit	John 15:26-27; 16:7-15
7	April 18, 2021	The Return of Jesus	Matthew 24:3-8,29-32,42-44



# Bible Study Session Date of How to Share Christ

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1 April 25, 2021	Our Commission	Matthew 28:1-20; 2Cor. 5:16-21
2 May 2, 2021	Start with Prayer	1Timothy 2:1-8
3 May 9, 2021	The Message	Romans 10:8-17
4 May 16, 2021	Live the Message	Colossians 3:1-3,12-17
5 May 23, 2021	Share the Message	Acts 17:16-18,22-23,30-31
6 May 30, 2021	Trust God to Work	Matthew 13:3-8,18-23



# God Bless You!

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