

Getting Back to the Basics

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I. Introduction.

A. The church that is grounded in the Word of God is a church that lives in light of the return of Jesus Christ.

B. The early church was grounded on the certainty of Christ's return.

II. Jesus was taken from the early church.

A. It was imperative that Jesus be taken away so he could engage in the high priestly work that he is engaged in today.

B. The next item on the agenda is Jesus' return. He had to ascend in order to make way for his return.

III. The church must live in light of the certainty of Jesus' return.

A. He promised to come back.

B. The Scripture prophesied this.

IV. Jesus will return in the same way that he went.

V. What this does for the church.

A. It breathes a sense of completion to the work of the church.

B. There is a sense of great comfort in Jesus' return. (1 Thessalonians 4)

C. It puts us on the spot with regard to holiness.

D. It calls the church together for prayer. A church that knows how to pray will have an impact on the kingdom.

E. It calls the church to give a central place and fulfillment of the inspired Word of God. (Ephesians 4)

F. It calls the church towards action.

Applications questions:

1. How would you grade the church's emphasis on Jesus' return today? Explain.

2. Why is an emphasis on Jesus' return so important?

3. How can we see the health of the early church flow from the centrality it gave to Jesus' return?
