

GRANT CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH – WICHITA, KANSAS

www.GrantChapelWichita.org Rev. Dr. V. Gordon Glenn III, Pastor

ABIDING IN CHRIST, LESSON 8 “ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE”

“Human beings live very much in their future; things that we expect to happen affect us right now. Christ teaches us to foresee endless joy with himself, and tells us that keeping this prospect on our minds will give us present peace and strengthens us to work through whatever spells of grief may come our way.”

“For Christians, the future is guaranteed to be better than the past ever was, or the present now is. The best is yet to be. The famous tag line ‘You ain’t seen nothing yet’ is always a word in season for the servants of Jesus.”ⁱ

Opening Discussion:

What would you like to know (*and not know*) about the future? Why?

“Today’s Scripture passage is Jesus’ final words of teaching to his disciples prior to his death. (The remainder of this ‘Farewell Address’ is a prayer – to God.) Not surprisingly, Jesus asks his disciples to look ahead.” ***Read John 16:16-33***

Class Work...

1. How does Jesus’ contrast of joy and grief help them/us? (vv. 16-22)
2. Does Jesus really mean “anything” when He says we can ask “anything” of the Father? (vv. 23-24)
3. Do you believe that Jesus could say the words He said in verse 27 about you?
4. What kinds of faith support has God provided you in your own difficult days?

Consider this...

“Take a look at your future: near future, far future, eternal future. How do the words of verse 33 affect your plans, thoughts and feelings about your future?”

ⁱ Research material & questions gleaned from *LifeGuide Bible Study* (J.I. Packer & Carolyn Nystrom), “Abiding in Christ”, p. 33- 36.