



HARVEST

NEWS

WINTER 2021 | HARVEST: GREG LAURIE

WHAT DOES GOD HAVE IN STORE FOR 2021?

GREG LAURIE SAYS,
**"WE SHOULD BE PURSUING GOD AS
WE AWAIT THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST."**

HOW WAITING FOR THE LORD'S RETURN IMPACTS OUR NEW YEAR

Has 2020 left a bad taste in your mouth? Has it stolen your hope for 2021? Are you entering the new year with a pessimistic outlook?

Maybe 2020's pandemic, election, economy, social unrest, and all of the personal issues you've been dealing with have got you feeling a little hopeless about the future. Maybe you're reluctant to allow joy and hope and anticipation into your life at this moment in time. I can understand that.

But here's something that we as believers can all place our hope in, at all times, and in every

circumstance: Jesus is coming back. Do you believe that to be true? If so, it should affect what you think, say, and do.

How are we to live in light of the fact that Christ could return at any moment?

FIRST, WE NEED TO WAKE UP!

"Let us not sleep, as others do..." (1 Thessalonians 5:6 NKJV). Sleep has been defined as "a state of inactivity, with a loss of consciousness and a decrease in responsiveness to events taking place."

**THANK YOU FOR BRINGING
HOPE TO MILLIONS IN 2020!**

**TOTAL
PEOPLE REACHED:
260,000,000+**

**TOTAL
PROFESSIONS OF FAITH:
150,000+**

**TOTAL
BIBLES SENT OUT:
30,000**



“JESUS IS COMING BACK. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT TO BE TRUE? IF SO, IT SHOULD AFFECT WHAT YOU THINK, SAY, AND DO.”

Have you been spiritually asleep lately? There are some who are not watching the signs of the times or observing the “times and seasons.” There is a lethargy and a passiveness, even a laziness. There seems to be a disconnect from their so-called “spiritual life” and real life. Instead of “walking in the spirit,” they are sleepwalking!

Looking for Christ's return is not a miserable, repressive, confining way to live. It's a happy, joyful, purposeful way to live. C. H. Spurgeon said, “It is a very blessed thing to be on the watch for Christ. It is a blessing to us now. How it detaches you from the world! You can be poor without murmuring. You can be rich without worldliness. You can be sick without sorrowing. You can be healthy without presumption. If you are always waiting for Christ's coming, untold blessings are wrapped up in that glorious hope!”

NEXT, WE NEED TO SOBER UP!

“Let us who are of the day be sober ...” (1 Thessalonians 5:8 NKJV). Having spent the first 17 years of my life in the constant presence of drunk people, I can speak somewhat authoritatively to this. Different people react in different ways to the effects of alcohol:

- You have your so-called “happy drunks,” who laugh at anything, like fools. They think they are much wittier than they really are.
- You have your sleepy drunks, who spend most of their time asleep or unconscious after drinking.

• Then there are the mean drunks, who explode and throw things. I was around a lot of these in my childhood.

You can be “drunk” or “intoxicated” by many things in this life. Jesus said in Luke 21:34, “Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come on you unexpectedly.”

“The cares of this life.” It is not wrong to have things; but it is wrong when things have you. There is the “thrill of the hunt” while you pursue what you want. Then, when you get it, you move on to another thing. We should be pursuing God as we await the return of Jesus Christ.

To be sober does not mean being miserable. Some Christians are like “Debbie Downer” about everything. In the name of spirituality, they never smile or laugh. That's not spiritual; that's just weird.

When Paul says we should be sober, it means to be clear-headed. To be sober means to be alert, to live with your eyes open, to be sane and steady. Don't be drunken and sleeping; be awake and alert!





LASTLY, WE NEED TO SUIT UP!

“[Put] on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:8 NKJV).

You are in a spiritual battle. It started on the day of your conversion and will rage until the day you go to Heaven. You will be tempted, harassed, hassled, and attacked. Simply put, Satan does not want you to follow Jesus Christ. This is why we need to suit up!

Ephesians 6:12–13 says, “We are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms” (NLT). Use God’s armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil so that after the battle you will still be standing firm!

“WE SHOULD BE PURSUING GOD AS WE AWAIT THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST.”

It’s really not a choice of fighting or not fighting. It’s a choice of victory or defeat, winning or losing, gaining ground or losing ground. When we become Christians, we also become soldiers in a spiritual battle. You are no longer a civilian; you are now under the orders of your commander-in-chief, Jesus. What weakens so many Christians

today is trying to live in two worlds; it just won’t work. As James 4:4 says, “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” Duplicity and hypocrisy weaken any witness we have to a watching world. So, suit up!

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

I’ve never really been one for New Year’s resolutions, but I think each of us should resolve in 2021 to:

- **WAKE UP** – Shake off the spiritual lethargy and inactivity that keep us from being effective.
- **SOBER UP** – Live circumspectly, alert, and ready for the opportunities God gives us.
- **SUIT UP** – Guard our hearts and minds with God’s armor to fend off the enemy’s attacks.

I believe 2021 will be an incredible year for the kingdom of God. Let’s be ready for it. This year can be a time of spiritual awakening and renewal in our own hearts, across our nation, and across the world. That’s why Harvest Ministries is committed to doing as much evangelism and outreach as we possibly can in the time we have, and I’m incredibly thankful for your partnership in this work. Jesus is coming back! Let’s spend the days before His return doing what He has called us to do: share the gospel.

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE THIS YEAR? READ IN AN ORDERLY MANNER

Encouragement from the New Believer's Bible

If you received a letter and read only a few sentences here and there, the letter would not make much sense to you. But if you read the letter in order, you would understand it. The same holds true when you read the Bible.

Sadly, many Christians do not realize the shallowness of this approach when applied to reading the Bible. They read a portion of Matthew, a story from Daniel, a verse or two from Exodus, and then a chapter or so from Revelation and wonder why they do not have a good understanding of God's Word. Furthermore, they end up misinterpreting the meaning of these passages because they have failed to grasp the context from which they came.

To avoid developing this poor habit, you need to discipline yourself to read the Bible in an orderly manner.

Some Ideas for Reading the Bible

One way to do this is to use an established reading plan. A reading plan lists Scripture passages to be read in a certain order. Many of the existing plans were created with a goal in mind. Some plans break the whole Bible down into 365 daily readings. Others help you read through the Bible in the order that the events actually happened. For now, you may want to use the following plan as your reading guide.

Start with the Gospel of John. This Gospel was written so that we might believe that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:31). Then, after you have finished reading John, read the rest of the New Testament. Once you have finished the New Testament, you should read the books of the Old Testament. There you will see the coming of Jesus foreshadowed and learn all about God's people, the Israelites.

The above was originally published in "How to Study the Bible" from the New Believer's Bible, edited by Greg Laurie (Tyndale House Publishers, 2019). You can order your own copy from [STORE.HARVEST.ORG](https://store.harvest.org).



YOUR GIFTS ARE CHANGING LIVES THROUGH A RUSH OF HOPE



“Every year, Greg Laurie brings God’s hope to our country. But this year of trials and challenges may be the most important Harvest yet.” —Marco Rubio, U.S. Senator

“Inspiring and heartwarming. Thank you Greg Laurie for this wonderful film.”
—Roma Downey, Emmy-Nominated Actress, Producer

Has this film impacted your life or the life of a loved one? We’d love to hear your story. Let us know at stories.harvest.org.

Your gifts help us to continue distributing hope through this powerful cinematic crusade on television and digital platforms.

Just tear off and mail this postage-paid envelope with your donation enclosed, or visit secure.harvest.org/news, to make your gift.

WHY SUPPORT EVANGELISM?

Your gift to Harvest Ministries ensures the proclamation of the gospel and the teaching of God’s Word to thousands of people all over the globe through radio, television, large-scale crusade outreaches, online courses, devotions, ebooks, and more. Thanks to your investment in the ministry work of Harvest, lives are being changed for eternity!



RESOURCES TO HELP YOU KNOW GOD AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

The following resources are designed to encourage you in your walk with Jesus Christ!



COURSES

courses.harvest.org



Greg Laurie Podcast

Subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Spotify!



harvest at home
CHURCH ONLINE

harvest.org/live



STORE

store.harvest.org