



Week 2: God's Goal for Us

It's the end of the world as we know it.

-- REM

The way you live now is completely controlled by what you believe about your future.

--Timothy Keller, Pastor and Author

The ancient Maya peoples placed a great deal of value upon the written word as a communicator of knowledge, and NONE of their written records seem to have believed anything of great significance was in store for us in 2012.

-- John Mink, *2012: End of the World Perceptions and Myths*

If the world doesn't end on December 21st, 2012, I have a feeling there will be a lot of babies born on September 20th, 2013.

-- Anonymous

Be ready, for you do not know the hour when our Lord will come.

-- The Didache (Early Christian Document)

The American obsession with the second coming of Jesus — especially with distorted interpretations of it — continues unabated. Seen from my side of the Atlantic, the phenomenal success of the Left Behind books appears puzzling, even bizarre.

-- N.T. Wright, *Farewell to the Rapture*

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

-- The Apostle Paul, *1 Thessalonians*