

PEACE MAKERS



in a noisy world

10 Enduring Hope

Because Christ will reign, faithful peacemaking requires believers to live with hope, pray with confidence, and bear witness without panic, triumphalism, or despair.

EMBARK

Two Responses to the Future

Read the following situations and discuss what faithful Christian response might look like.

Nathan follows the news constantly. He feels discouraged by the moral direction of the culture, anxious about the future of the country, and frustrated by what he sees happening around him. He finds himself talking more and more about decline, loss, and everything that could go wrong.

- What fears may be shaping Nathan's outlook?
- How might panic begin to distort Christian faithfulness?
- What would hopeful steadiness look like for Nathan?

Melissa cares deeply about truth and wants to make a difference. She believes Christians should be involved, engaged, and willing to stand publicly for what is right. But over time, she starts speaking as though political success is what will preserve what matters most.

- Why can this way of thinking become spiritually dangerous?
- What is the difference between faithful engagement and misplaced hope?
- How could Melissa remain engaged without treating public success as the hope of the church?

Follow-Up Questions

- Which situation feels easiest to recognize in yourself or others?
- Why do Christians tend to drift toward panic, triumphalism, or withdrawal?
- What would it look like to care deeply about public life without being ruled by fear or false hope?

EXAMINE

READ Matthew 5:13–16

1. What images does Jesus use to describe His followers?
2. What does it mean for believers to be salt and light in the world?
3. What danger does Jesus warn against?
4. How does this passage shape our responsibility in the present?

READ 1 Timothy 2:1–6

5. What does Paul urge believers to do first?
6. Why does Paul connect prayer to public life and peaceful living?

*Christians Live
Faithfully
NOW
Because Christ
Will Reign
THEN*

7. What does this passage teach us about God's heart for all kinds of people?
8. How does this correct both panic and indifference?

READ Revelation 19:11–16

9. How is Christ described in this passage?
10. What does this reveal about His future reign and final victory?
11. Why does this passage matter for believers living in a noisy and unstable world?
12. How should Christ's final triumph shape our present faithfulness?

EXPOSE

Christians live in the tension between the present age and the promised reign of Christ. That tension can produce unhealthy reactions. Some drift toward panic, as though the future of truth depends on us. Some drift toward triumphalism, as though churches can secure by power what only Christ can bring. Some drift toward withdrawal, as though public life no longer matters at all.

But Scripture calls believers to a different posture. Jesus says His followers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. That means Christians are not called to disappear. We are called to live visibly, faithfully, and helpfully in the world as it is. Paul urges believers to pray for kings and all who are in authority. That means public concern should first produce prayer, not panic.

Christians do not engage the world as though God were absent. We engage as those who know that God hears, God saves, and God rules. And Revelation reminds us that history is not open-ended. Christ will return. He will judge rightly. He will reign openly. He will not fail. That means the church does not need to live in fear. And it does not need to grasp for control. Faithful peacemaking is not passive. It is hope-filled. Christians live faithfully now because Christ will reign then. That hope frees us to pray, witness, serve, endure, and love without becoming controlled by despair or intoxicated by visions of earthly triumph.

ENGAGE

Where Does Distance Show Up? (8–10 minutes)

Read the questions below and discuss them honestly but generally. Think in terms of patterns, not specific people.

13. What does panic-driven Christian engagement usually sound like?
14. What does triumphalist Christian engagement usually sound like?
15. What does withdrawal usually look like in church life?
16. What would hopeful, steady, Christ-centered faithfulness look like instead?
17. How can a church show that its confidence rests in Christ rather than in cultural success?
18. What habits help believers remain prayerful, engaged, and hopeful at the same time?

For further discussion...

19. Why is prayer often harder for Christians than commentary or reaction?
20. How does Matthew 5 keep us from retreating from the world?
21. How does 1 Timothy 2 keep us from responding to public life with panic?
22. How does Revelation 19 keep us from despair or false triumphalism?
23. What would it look like for our church to finish this series with greater hope, steadiness, and faithfulness?

MEMORY VERSE

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (CSB) "First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."