

Hope

...*the night is far gone, the day is near.* Romans 13.12

The early church, including the Apostle Paul, however, believed in the _____ return of Christ, even though Jesus warned them, and us, that no one knew when He would come again, not even Himself.

The early church had a rock solid _____ in the Second Coming of Christ, a hope that sustained them in their trials and motivated them to *lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him* (Colossians 1.10).

The Christ of the past is the Christ of the present is the Christ of the future. What I am trying to say here is belief in the Second Coming of Christ cannot be separated from Whom He is; the Second Coming is essential to faith in Christ with very _____ implications, not just for the future, but for the present as well.

We can see in this text the early church's hope in Christ's Second Coming had an _____ dimension to it.

What does it mean to put on the Lord Jesus Christ? They were being encouraged to put on the _____ of Christ as easily as putting on one's clothes, that is to be Christlike by manifesting His virtues. It came down to choices; character is developed through our choices.

Now, by the power of the Holy Spirit put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. "For this is our hope, to _____ Christ and make Him known!"