



Are You Ready?

By Johnny Caruso on December 26, 2022

READING: Matthew 24

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas!

Watch--to be awake, give attention, close observation, to look with expectation, guard, vigilance for keeping or protecting against danger. We are living in a time that is described in the Bible as the "days of evil" or perilous times; a time in which man is living according to what is right in his or her own eyes; a time when God has been given the back seat in the lives of many and the world and all of its ungodly, perishable pleasures have taken front row seat in the lives of many, including some of those who once confessed Christ.

One day the world and all its pleasures will be no more. Knowing how short our lives are, is not only important, but it would seem we would make every attempt to live each day as if it was our last. None of us knows when our last breath will be drawn. Sadly, many today are living their lives as if they plan to be on earth forever--making no preparation to one day leave here and stand before Christ.

The Bible declares Jesus will one day return to receive those that belong to Him. Yes, there will be a 2nd coming of Christ. When He returns, He will come as judge. *"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done* (Revelation 22:12).

So how do we watch over our souls? We can start with faith in God through a personal relationship with Christ Jesus. Then, through obedience of the Word of God, move along with the leading of the Holy Spirit in offering our sacrifice of service to others with continual prayer to our Father in heaven. The day that Christ will return. On that day and hour no man knows. We do know somethings:

1. Life is short. James 4:14 -- Our lives are like morning fog, it's here a little while, then it's gone.
2. Since our days on earth are numbered and none of us knows when we will take our last breath, it is important that we prepare NOW to one day meet Christ.
3. When we stand before Christ all that will matter is what we did for Him while we lived. Did we do our best on what He commanded of us in loving the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind and our neighbor as ourselves?

Nothing else would matter. Jesus says these are the two greatest commandments for upon these hangs all the Law and Prophets. At the end of our lives, what will we hear Christ say concerning us? If you belong to Christ, keep watch! Ready or not, Christ will return.

PRAYER: Father, help us to be prepared as we live for you every day.

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 25

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