

We are called to live our Christian life:

- In our communities
- In close fellowship with God
- Loving our neighbors as ourselves
- Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with our neighbors.

Jesus had this to say about the time in which we are living – leading up to His Second Coming:

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (Mt 24:42-44)

The thief is Satan and he will come and try to steal – your time, your loyalty, your faith, your peace, your happiness, your health, your freedom in Christ, your marriage.

3. Watch, and be alert.

The way we do this is to be so well schooled in the Scriptures that we cannot be taken in by false prophets, false teachers, and false preachers.

You should challenge everything you hear from the pulpit or in bible studies and ask: "Does this line up with a reasonable interpretation of Scripture.

EXPECT BIRTH PAINS

What can or what should Christians expect as we anticipate his second coming?

- Jesus wants us to know what is going to happen so that we can be ready and so that we can live our lives accordingly.

Some reasons why Jesus is coming back:

1. To take all believers still on earth to heaven.
2. To give relief to all believers who are undergoing tribulation.
3. To rescue believers from the wrath to come upon this earth.
4. To punish all unbelievers who are left on this earth upon His return.
5. To punish His chief enemy on earth: The beast, the antichrist, Satan.
6. To resurrect and glorify all believers.
7. To save a great number of Jews, and fulfill His promise to the Jewish people.
8. To restore this world from its fallen sinful condition.

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ²“Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

⁴ Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.

⁹ “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will

grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

¹⁵ “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

²² “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. ²³ At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. ²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time.

²⁶ “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. ²⁷ For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

²⁹ “Immediately after the distress of those days
“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

³⁰ “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

³² “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ³³ Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, this generation will

certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Two key questions the disciples asked Jesus:

1. When will the Temple in Jerusalem be destroyed?

Jesus prophesied that the Jewish Temple would be destroyed.

History tells us that the destruction of the Jewish Temple, in 70 Ad by the Romans, totally changed the Jewish faith, even to this day, and it changed many of the early Christians’ outlook on life as well.

If you doubt biblical future predictive prophecy here is just one example, of many examples in the bible, of prophecy happening just the way scripture says it will.

2. “What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Jesus answer:

**“Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.
Matthew 24:4-5**

❖ What are we to do about the End Times?

1. Absolutely believe Jesus is coming again even though we don’t know when!

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (Mt 24:36)

Therefore keep watch because you do not know on what day your Lord will come (Mt 24:42)

2. Remember God has work for us to do on earth first.