

December 29, 2019 Any Day Now – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent

Good morning, hope merry Christmas, have a safe new year....

I know that the post Christmas time of year can be hard for some, it used to be for me.....

It's the realization we are another year older, and they just keep coming faster....

But I want to have a great 2020.....and one of the ways we can do that is by looking to the future.....

Preparing for this morning, I did a quick search of what people 100 years ago predicted life would be like in 2020...

1. In a lecture at the Royal College of surgeons, a surgeon by the name of Richard clement lucas made a prediction that our useless outer toes will become one huge toe
2. New York Times science editor Waldemar Kaempffert predicted that by 2020 your entire house would be made of synthetic plastics, and that it would revolutionize cleaning because all youll have to do to get your house clean is simply turn the hose on everything.
3. The same guy predicted that we would eventually be able to take ordinary objects like rayon underwear and bring them to chemical factories to be converted into candy...
4. John Elfret Watkins, curator of mechanical technology at the Smithsonian in the 1920s predicted that the letters c x and q would disappear from our alphabet and that we would only communicate with condensed words expressing condensed ideas.....
5. Arthur summerfield predicted that mail would be delivered via space rockets.....

95% of Christians in the early 1900's believed the world would end and the Lord would return by 2000.....

We spent the last 4 weeks looking at the first advent of Christ, and we celebrate his first advent at Christmas....

But this morning, I want to turn our attention to the 2<sup>nd</sup> advent of Christ....the return of Christ....

There have been many predictions about when Christ will return....(88 reasons, then 89), recently Harold Camping predicted it would happen in 1994 or 1996, then again in may 2011, only to then declare....oops I meant October..

I think it is with good reason that we try to predict it.....when I was younger, I grew up hearing about the rapture, learning about it, and almost fearing it.....

But the older ive gotten, ive started begging for it.....i want it asap.....and I think many do, which is why they try to predict...

But the warning from scripture is clear...**Matthew 24:36** no man knows the day or hour, not even Jesus

I would like to include in that warning, that we can't even be sure how it will happen.....only that it will....

Theologians have been debating this for years.....there are those who are amill – Lord will return after the metaphorical 1000 year reign, post – we are currently in the 1000 year reign, pre – the Lord will return before the rapture....historic, dispensational

There are many respected men on all sides of the argument, what that means to me is.....we have no idea....

But we can have absolute confidence that one day, and hopefully soon.....the Lord will return to earth....

He himself said so.....lets read together **Matthew 24:36-44**

Lets understand this passage together.....first of all....this is Jesus speaking, these are his words.....

When we read these words we see several things....

First off.....**v.36** – no one knows, not even the son.....

what are we to do with this.....we are to be patient – there are those who fall away in lacking patience...

but Jesus told his disciples in John 14:3 – If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again....

Secondly.....we see that there will be signs.....

**v. 37** for as were the days of Noah, so will the coming of the son....

What were the days of Noah like.....hopeless, eating, drinking, marrying.....

What Jesus is trying to get us to see here, is that we should be preparing for his second coming, in the same way noah was preparing for the flood....

Noah prepared with expectancy.....even when it seemed impossible....

Thirdly we see that we should prepare ourselves for his return....

**v. 40-42** – Jesus gives us a great illustration here.....

How many of you if you knew you were going to be robbed tonight would do nothing about it.....of course not....

What would you do.....we would load up the shotgun, turn all the lights on, and dare anyone to cross the threshold of our home....

Jesus says, this is exactly how we should be preparing for the second coming.....

**v. 42** – stay awake, **v. 44** – be ready.....

so how, how are we to stay awake, how should we be preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> advent of Christ...

1. **Prepare Spiritually** – how would you live your life if you knew the return of Christ were imminent...  
My great grandmother used to say, don't do anything you'd be embarrassed to be found doing if Jesus were to come back....

How differently would you live your life if you thought Christ were coming tonight....

Preparing our life for the Lord's return means living every moment as if he might....

**1 timothy 6:11-14** – but as for you o man of God, flee these things, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. To keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord.

## **2. Prepare those around you**

If Christ returned today, would there be people in your life who would still need to know about Christ

Listen, we treat Hell as a metaphor....but the truth is, Hell is a real place.....and there will be many many people there....

We should be preparing our world for the return of Christ by sharing the gospel with an urgency that says I may not get another day to share Christ with my loved one, my co worker, waitress at fav

**Matthew 28:19-20** – go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father the son and the holy spirit, teaching them all that I have commanded you, and behold I am with you always

**3. Prepare Hopefully** – what are you hopeful for when you roll out of bed -  
One of the greatest things we can have hope in is the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ....

If you've lost a loved one, if your body is wrecked with sickness, if your marriage is falling apart.....

The second coming gives us hope that one day all pain and suffering will end,

**Revelation 21:3-4** – and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying “behold the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God, he will wipe every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore for the former things have passed away