

What Have You Been Putting Off?

No-one can afford to delay our spiritual responsibilities any longer.

The spiritual life must always be given priority, for it is the only life we have that can be eternal.

Matthew 24:3 [New King James] *“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’”*

Jesus Christ has **not** given us a direct answer to the question, we do **not** need to know when, [Acts 1:6-7].

But Jesus Christ **did** warn His disciples to be ready for His Second Coming, which will change this world practically, [Matthew 24:24].

To help us in this preparation for His Second Coming, Jesus Christ has given us several parables.

Matthew 24:45-51 [New King James] *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

Jesus Christ expects us, as part of our preparation for His Second Coming, to take care of and serve His people constantly and thoroughly. This includes all who are already His disciples but all whom He may bring into our personal world, [1 Peter 3:15-16].

Knowing that Jesus Christ’s return will be sudden and unexpected, [verse 50] we should not be living irresponsibly, sitting and waiting and doing nothing but self-serving pleasures which will develop a false security and divert us from doing the work of witness that God has given everyone He is calling for their chance of salvation at this time, [John 6:44; Matthew 5:14-16].

“Weeping and gnashing of teeth” is a phrase used to describe severe despair, for God’s judgement is as certain as the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, this time as *“King of kings and Lord of lords,”* [Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:11-16].

The parable of the wise and foolish virgins presents another aspect of our being prepared. The virgins were personally responsible for their own spiritual condition, [being a light in a dark world for the returning Jesus Christ.]

Note that the bridegroom took longer than expected to arrive, nor was he expected in the middle of the night.

Our Christian behaviour should not depend on when we assume that Jesus Christ will return, whatever *“signs”* we may see in the world that point towards what He mentioned to His disciples, [Matthew 24:3-35].

The work we are to be doing as we wait in a sense of urgency involves two major areas of our lives, [Matthew 28:19-20].

Supporting the work of witness all disciples of Jesus Christ are to be a part of, also learning and teaching all that the Word of God, as recorded in the Christian Bible, to a world that has as yet been blinded by Satan to the very reason for our existence, [2 Corinthians 4:4].

[Please download and study the article on this website with the title 'God's Purpose For Every Human Being' listed under main heading 'Human Nature'.]

Hebrews 12:1 [New King James] *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,”*

The writer of Hebrews compares the Christian life to a race. **We push ourselves to go in the right direction but we also run “with endurance” ready to keep up the pace for a long time.**

Christianity is a lifetime commitment, not a quick sprint to the finish line.

Jesus Christ's Second Coming is **not** the only deadline we face.

Each Christian may have to face a personal deadline also, the end of their physical life before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 [New King James] *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*

As he neared the end of his physical life, Paul could confidently say that he had been faithful to the call he had received from the Creator God. Thus he was able to face death calmly, knowing that he had been accepted by his Master Jesus Christ and would be able to continue to work for Him in His Kingdom after His Second Coming.

These words were to encourage the young Timothy and all Christians.

No matter how difficult our race in life, our fight against Satan and the evil he brings to humanity, the end will be well worth all the pain and pressure that life will bring on us, especially when we seek to live a Christian life.

None of us know how much time we have left in this physical life, whether we will live until Jesus Christ's Second Coming or come upon a personal deadline much sooner.

What does matter is our always being ready for that time and every day we still have counts, being a time of preparation that we should not be putting off!