

Christ's Return – Hour Not Expected

– Luke 12:40

Luke 12:40 [NIV] *“You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

Are we ready for Christ's return and our judgement before His throne?

God is giving us all time to live out our beliefs and reflect Jesus' love in our dealing with other human beings.

The verses of scripture preceding this statement give us guidelines of how we should be living right now.

1 Not hypocritical, but sincere

Luke 12:1 [NIV] *“Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: ‘Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.’”*

2 Not fearful, but knowing God's love for us

Luke 12:4-7 [NIV] *“I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”*

3 Be ready to give a witness for Christ

Luke 12:8-9 [NIV] *“I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God.”*

4 Not worried but trusting

Luke 12:22-30 [NIV] *“Then Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.’”*

5 Not greedy but generous

Luke 12:33-34 [NIV] *“Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

6 Not lazy but diligent

Luke 12:35-36 [NIV] *“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.”*

Living our life more like Christ tells us we too will mean we will greet His return with joy.