

From the Pastor's Desk

In the midst of a world in which we miss seeing our friends, in which we are trying to find something decent to watch on Netflix, in which we are struggling not to overeat, and in which pastors try to imagine the people in front of them as they preach in front of a camera, we have this promise in God's Word: Christ is coming again!

"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him" (2 Pet. 3:8-15 NIV).

Two things stand out in this passage: (1) What might seem to be an arbitrary delay of Christ's return is actually a demonstration of God's mercy. God's patience means salvation. As we await Christ's imminent return, God is calling more sheep into the fold; (2) If we have a real sense of Christ's imminent return, it will impact our lives.

So let's not waste the pandemic. Live holy lives! Be godly! Guard your heart! Don't be lazy! Study Scripture! Fast! Pray! Serve others! Keep the Sabbath! Read Christian books! Share the good news! The gospel is not quarantined! Share our worship services with friends and family; host a virtual watch party; check on your neighbors; break the ice with your non-Christian friends; pray for open doors; start an online seeker's Bible study.

And in so doing, we will hasten his return. How? By helping to fulfill those conditions without which it cannot come. The gospel shall be preached in the whole world, "and *then* shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14, emphasis added).

G. Campbell Morgan, that great expositor of Scripture, wrote, "I never lay my head on the pillow without thinking that perhaps before I awake, the final morning may have dawned. I never begin my work without thinking that He may interrupt it to begin His own. Every night before we go to sleep, we ought to say, 'He may come tonight.' Every day when we get out our tools and go to work, 'This may be the last day's work I'll do.'"

We have some wonderful services planned for Sunday, May 24:

Spanish Service (9:00 AM): "The Other Key to Understanding the Gospel" Acts 19 Pastor Adolfo Ocampo
Watch Live at www.facebook.com/Primera-Iglesia-Bautista-de-Flushing-NYC-Ministerio-Hispano-103654884345775/

Chinese Service (11:00 AM): "Challenges When Serving" Acts 20:1-12 Pastor John Wang
Watch Live at www.facebook.com/fbcflushingchinese/

English Service (11:00 AM): "What to Do With a Guilty Conscience" Mark 6:14-29 Pastor Aaron Chan
Watch Live at www.facebook.com/fbcflushing/

Choosing Faith Over Fear!

Pastor Gary