

For many, Advent is a time to look forward to the Celebration of the Birth of Jesus
some two thousand years ago in a stable in Bethlehem.
But Advent is also the time to look forward to the Hope we have in Christ's Return.

Mark emphasizes three aspects of the Return of Christ in this morning's passage.

I CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN

Mark 13:24-27

Jesus lays out a prophecy of hope.

He tells us of His second coming and gives us a basic timeline to work with.
His emphasis is clearly that the date and time is not as important as how we
consistently live our lives in the knowledge that it is coming at any time.
He illustrates this truth with a parable...

II. THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

Mark 13:28-29

Just like a tree shows signs in the spring that summer is near,
we are to look around and see signs that the end is coming.
Christ's second coming will not be a mystery but rather
the signs will have been present for an extended period of time.

Do you live your life in a state of readiness if at any moment Christ were to return?
From the evidence we have around us, we are living in the last days.
How long those last days will last only God knows!

III. THE HOPE OF HIS RETURN

Mark 13:30-37

The end is coming and soon.
Our job is to:
1) watch and
2) pray.

We do not know the time or place, but after our birth, our bodies begin to die.
We are to anticipate Christ's return to us at our death.
We are to be ready for Him when He returns,
that's why his command is an emphatic: WATCH!

*"A time is coming for all men when they will be either born again,
or wish they had never been born at all."*

- anonymous

Listen to the words of Jesus

Mark 13:32, 33

Are you ready for your end time on earth?
– whether during your life or when you meet Christ in death.
Are you WATCHING?
Do you have the hope in Christ that the Season of Advent strives to instill?