

Matthew 24:32-42

Sec 3. “As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; & for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity: so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, & be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; & may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen.”

A. There are people that you meet or hear from the pulpit or on the radio who say that Jesus is coming back very soon. All the signs show it. In the passage we just read says, we are to look at signs: **Mat 24:32-33** says, **“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender & puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; ³³so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right at the door.*”**

1. **Mat 24** answers more than one question. Jesus said concerning the temple, **“Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down” (v2)**. This chapter answers questions that His disciples asked Him in **v3**: **“Tell us, when will these things happen, & what *will be* the sign of Your coming, & of the end of the age?”**

a. The temple is no longer standing; not one stone of it is left upon another.

b. The book of Revelation is the same. It foretells the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD yet also tells of the end of the age which is concluded with the final judgment.

2. American Family Radio is a popular network of Christian radio stations in the South because it is based out of Mississippi. When I lived in NJ, Family Radio was a more popular Christian radio network. The internet said it was broadcast to “more than 150” markets at its peak.¹

a. The president, Harold Camping first predicted the end of the world would occur in 1994. Then in 2005 and later again he predicted 2011.

b. Instead of owning his terrible mistakes, he claimed that the church age had ended. He even urged people to leave the church! He must have forgotten what Jesus said in **Mat 16:18** that the **“gates of Hades will not overpower”** His church.

B. The key verses for us to study tonight include **vv42** to the end of the chapter. Jesus said, **“be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming” (v42)**

1. **Sec 3** likewise says that **“He will have that day unknown to men”** who should **“be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come.”²**

2. Harold Camping & Family Radio would have been much better off to heed this verse!

3. Contemporary date setters are broader in their estimates.

a. One said, “Christ will come back in my lifetime.”³

b. Four years ago, Jan Markell said that we are the terminal generation, giving 15 signs of the imminent return of Jesus.

c. We are to be ready for the return of Christ at any moment, yet these are 2 examples of date-setting that is contrary to **Mat 24:42**.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Camping

² This language clearly comes from **Mat 24**.

³ This was mentioned locally on Saturday by a host on Jan Markell’s radio show called “Understanding the Times.”

C. Sec 3 opens by saying, “Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; & for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity.” There are 2 main purposes for the judgment given in sec 3 here:

1. The coming judgment should “deter all men from sin.”

a. This section later expands on this statement: “He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, & be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come.” → **Mat 24:43-51**

b. I heard that during one of the Harold Camping false date-setting episodes, some of his followers went into great debt because they were confident they would not be around to pay it off. You may be able to think of how knowing Christ is coming in December of this year could persuade others to fall into sin.

2. The fact that Christ will judge the wicked is “for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity.” This is especially true of those facing terrible persecution in Africa, Asia, & the Middle East.

D. Some fear the judgment. If you are firmly rooted in Christ by faith, that should not be you. Using the closing of this section & the closing of the WCF, Christians should “be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen.”

1. **1 Cor 16:22:** “**If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha.**” This word means “**O our Lord come.**”

2. **Rev 22:20** “**He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**”