



SERIES: Spiritual Fitness: Christian Living

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Saturday, May 1, 2021

Scripture: Mark 13:32-33; 1 John 2:28; Mat. 25:23

TITLE: When Is Jesus Coming Back?

When is Jesus coming back? If you Google search this, you will find a lot of answers. On Wikipedia, you'll find a page called *Predictions and Claims for the Second Coming of Christ*. I found predictions from Julius Africanus in 500AD, to John Wesley in 1836, to Jerry Fallwell in 1999. I even saw that Isaac Newton said Jesus would return in 2000. Every prediction has proven false. But we do know that Jesus is coming soon.

What does that mean? Well, I have the answer for you, and it's found in Mark 13:32-33(NLT). Jesus says this about His return: "...no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. ³³ And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!"

I bet some of you got mighty uncomfortable when I said I had the answer. Well, I do. No one knows except God the Father. But what we do know is His return is imminent. Therefore, we need to be ready. As Jesus said, "Be on guard. Stay alert."

I don't care how many people go to your church or how many followers you have on social media. If a person says specifically when Jesus is coming, run away. No one knows. At an unknown time, Jesus will return and begin a millennial, or thousand-year, reign before establishing the New Heaven and New Earth. There will be signs before the return of Christ, including the Gospel spread to the nations (Mark 13:10), a great tribulation (Mark 12:19-20), false Christs (Mark 13:22), heavenly signs (Mark 12:24-25), sin and rebellion (2 Thess. 2:1-4), and the salvation of Israel (Rom. 11:25-26). During the millennium, Satan will be bound, and the saints will reign, and finally, Satan will be defeated (Rev. 20:1-10).

Christ's return is imminent. Jesus told John in a vision that He is coming soon (Rev. 20:20). We do not know when Christ is coming back. Therefore, we should be living prepared and self-controlled lives (1 Thess. 5:4-6; Rom. 13:11-4). We should live a life that is pleasing to God (Col. 1:10) and is a testimony to mankind (Matt. 5:16). As we await His return, we should live in a way, so that we will "be confident and unashamed at His coming" (1 John 2:28).

So here's my challenge for you today: live today like it's your last before Christ comes back. When we live with expectancy and intentionality, we will win the day. Our lives will be reflective of a soul saved and life changed. Our lives will be salt and light to a dark and hope-starved world. Our moments will be filled with Gospel intentionality. When we live this way when Christ returns, He will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Mat.25:23, NLT)

That's my goal, and I know it's yours. Now that you've been trained for spiritual fitness, go win the day.