

Are you ready?

“Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.” Luke 12:40

Jesus is teaching us to seek the Kingdom of God rather than becoming overly concerned about life. Verse 22 of this same chapter provides this perspective; *“... Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.”* Some may interpret this to mean that we do not need to work for a living but Gen 3:19 tells us differently, *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground.”* To work for a living is God’s command but not to the exclusion of God, *“And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me”* (Matt 10:38). Thus, He knows our needs and promises to provide them. The question before us is, “what should we be ready for?”

Clearly we are to be ready for the second coming of Jesus: the Day of Judgment. *“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”* (Rev 20:12-15). Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life are forever separated from God. Those whose names are written in the Book of Life, *“have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”* (Rev 7:14).

There is no hope of restoring God’s good graces after death. Thus, we must be ready for Judgment Day today, *“Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts...”* (Heb 3:7-8). The parable of the ten virgins tells us of five who were ready and of five who were not. They all were waiting for Jesus meaning that outwardly they all looked, acted, and talked alike when it came to faith in Jesus. Yet the five foolish virgins did not possess a living faith: they had no oil (Holy Ghost) in their lamp of faith. Without oil in our lamps we are lost, *“... if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”* (Romans 8:9).

The Word of God teaches that, *“... repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations”* (Luke 24:47) and that whoever hears this preaching and gladly receives this word of reconciliation shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”* (Acts 2:38). At this point each of us can say **“I am ready”** to meet Jesus, *“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”* (2 Tim 4:8).

God’s peace,

Charles Korhonen

Worship Schedule

Oct 6	Ken Storm	11:00	Holy Communion
Oct 13	Paul Copponen	11:00	Sunday School 9:45 Medical Care 2pm
Oct 16	Annual Meeting	7:00pm	
Oct 20	Dave Lappi	11:00	Sunday School 9:45
Oct 27	Cal Niemela/Chad Kuivanen	11:00	Sunday School 9:45

Note: the new carpeting is installed in the entry of the church. Thank you for your contributions.

TELECONFERENCE

Local: 334-6338 Long Distance: 1-906-334-6338
Instructions: After “greeting”, enter Conference I.D. No. 44444

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