

Watch and Pray

I remember one extraordinary week a few years ago. In that one week, I laid to rest, several saints of God; one I barely knew, one who's been my friend for 25 years, and one family member. Even as I write this, I am visiting the home of a friend who lost her husband of 68 years, five years ago today, and who lost her 78 year old son-in-law just this past Christmas Eve. Yet in each and every case, the circumstances were the same. None of those four (nor any others for that matter) were one second late for their appointment with Jesus.

Each family represented is in terrible and legitimate pain. Each wishes it were different. In fact all have gone over the circumstances of the deaths in their minds, looking for what the doctors may have missed, and wondering how the ultimate tragedy could have been avoided. The truth is that there was nothing any of them, any of their doctors, any of their friends, counselors or anyone else could have done. You see, since the moment I was born on the 28th of December, in the year of our Lord 1954, I have had an appointment with Jesus. On some day in the future (hopefully the very distant future), I will keep that appointment... and so will you keep yours. Is there any question as to whether or not Jesus will be prepared for that divine appointment? No; the real question is whether or not **we** will be ready for it.

In this life, we cannot know when Christ's second coming will be, nor whether or not we'll be alive when it comes. But we can know this for sure. He came today for someone. He'll come one day for me.

Recorded in Matthew's Gospel is one account of Jesus speaking to His followers about the day on which He would return to this Earth. Jesus told His men, "So keep on watching, because you don't know on what day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known at what watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not allowed his house to be broken into".

Beloved, I beseech you by the mercies of God, be ready for your appointments, most especially those which you cannot set; therefore, watch, and pray.

But concerning that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father. Take heed, stay awake and pray; for you do not know when the time is. Mark 13:32,33

Pastor