

A Pastoral Word from the Rector

Bishop +Mark

Grace and peace to each of you as we approach the New Year, 2012.

According to some this is the year that the world is to come to an end on

December 21st. Personally, I stick with the Scriptures that tell us that no man knows the day or the hour of Christ's coming again. No one but the Sovereign God of this universe knows when the time clock runs out for any of us.



The fact is, my time clock could run out before I finish this pastoral letter. It could run out tomorrow or next week or next month, or, if the Lord tarries, it could run out 20 years from now. The point is, we all need to be ready. Ready for what? Ready to meet our Lord God face to face.

None of us knows what the New Year may bring. We do not know what unexpected joy or sadness we will face. We do not know what fortune or what poverty awaits us. As someone once said, we are getting ready to go into a storm, in the midst of a storm, or coming out of a storm.

But one thing we do know for sure. At some point in our life each one of us is going to stand before our Creator and give an account for our lives. And of all the things we have said and done, only one thing is really going to make all the difference - what did we do with God's blessed Son, Jesus Christ?

Did we receive him and accept his death on Calvary's cross in our place? Did we repent of our sins and trust in Christ to make us holy? And, having done so, did we live a life in the power of Christ? Or, did we reject Christ? Did we laugh and consider it a joke when someone said we needed a Savior? Did we forget what Christmas was really all about? Did we mock the Resurrection and think it was just a big hoax?

I hope you are ready for the New Year. Ready for all that it will bring, happy and sad, good and bad. But most of all, I hope you are always ready at a moment's notice to meet the Lord Jesus face to face and stand before him unashamed, a debtor to his free grace.

If you don't know how to be ready or are not sure if you are ready, I would love the opportunity to talk to you, listen to you, and pray with you.

Your servant in Christ,

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