

## Jesus Christ's Return is Near

Sermon October 2, 2022

**Scripture Reading:** 2 Peter 3:1-15 & 17-18 and Revelation 21:1-11 & 22-27

**Golden verse:** *Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Revelation 21:1*

Dear beloved,

These days more and more theologians are focusing on Matthew chapter 24, where our Lord Jesus Christ shared with His disciples the signs which will clearly declare that His return is close.

With Jesus' return, this world will end as we read in 2 Peter 3:10: *“The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything were done in it will be laid bare.”*

In that very moment, Jesus Christ will replace us with another planet which is called paradise or heaven, as we read in Revelation 21:1-3:

*“Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down from heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”*

Since more and more theologians are calling us to inform our beloved fellows about these prophecies, in the last few Sundays, here at Calvin, we studied these prophecies and the signs already fulfilled.

Today, we are focusing on those signs which are still in the preparatory stages.

### **Increased Wickedness & Loss of Love**

*“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matthew 24:12)*

Today, more and more people are living only for themselves and their own happiness. The idea of denying themselves, taking up their crosses daily and following Jesus (Luke 9:23), is a foreign concept. More and more children have

lack of a healthy home where they can receive love and training from their own father and mother.

I never heard about so much hate between parents and children as during pandemic when vaccinated and non-vaccinated children-parents-siblings-relatives hated each other and excluded one another because their view were different.

### **One Government Will Rule the Whole World**

*"And there will be a strong kingdom as iron... that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others."* (Daniel 2:40)

*"It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* (Revelation 13:7-8)

The meaning of a world government is a system in which the entire world is run by a single sovereign entity. A one-world government could look like an absolute monarch or dictator, or a system comprised of representatives from many nations agreeing to merge as one.

The United Nations is not technically considered yet as a one-world government because it does not have sovereignty over the whole world. Today, the United Nations is considered an international multipurpose organization. However, the United Nations is a model for a world government.

There was already a president in United States who raised his voice against the One World Government, which is well planned already, and it is just a matter of time when we will wake up being controlled by a **One World Government**.

### **Technology Will Control the World**

*"...both small and great, rich and poor, will receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark, or the number of his name."* (Revelation 13:16-18)

Today, different types of cards such as debit and credit cards are popular, but they can be lost or stolen. It is likely that the eventual solution will be an implantable chip on the right hand or forehead. Technology Controls the World. There is no privacy anymore.

Technology is awesome, but will destroy people's needs to gather to worship face-to-face, and will destroy the community.

The rapid advance of technology is transforming civilization in ways no one expected, in ways that are exciting and scary, ways we are only beginning to understand. These days, technology is recreating human beings into something new, something altered, computerized, robotic, superhuman.

From a positive perspective, we have to see that Jesus Christ reveals that *"this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."* (Matthew 24:14) The gospel is the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. It is only with the technological advances of television, radio, internet and other means of mass communication that it is possible to reach hundreds of millions of human beings with the message of the Bible. The gospel of the Kingdom of God will continue to be preached to all nations. The internet is changing everything. The gospel message of the coming Kingdom of God is going out to the world. This is yet another prophecy that could not be fulfilled until recent times.

These signs are historically unprecedented. Only this generation has seen them. For this, millions believe the return of Christ is very near. Polls show that even non-believers think the world is at such a point.

### **But when is He coming?**

Just the question - when? *"But of that day and hour knows no man."* (Matthew 24:36) We should not guess the time, but we should focus only on the Great Commission, to bring people to Christ by sharing the love of God, and we should not be concerned about the date when the Lord will return. The gospel will be preached in all the world.

### **Will this generation see God's Kingdom established on earth?**

Seeing all these signs, many Christians believe that the second coming is soon. John 14:1-3 says, *"Let not your heart be troubled...In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

### **How should we live while we wait?**

Christians should be on guard, watching and praying until the day of the Lord. The Bible says in Luke 21:34-36, *“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*

Let us continue to build our community here at Calvin.

- Let's continue to practice friendship.
- Let everyone be engaged and involved and connected.
- Let's notice the people who are longing for someone to reach out to them, shake their hand and have more than a two-second conversation.
- Let's continue to provide a place here where every person would feel safe and comfortable and secure and ready to share their life with others.
- Let's initiate conversations even in a store with strangers. We, as insiders, should be more intentional about looking beyond our own interests.
- Both the insiders and the outsiders in any church community need to be involved.

**Let's put ourselves aside** by reaching out a hand to the person next to us who seems lost and confused or just plain out new. In this way, we can build long-standing community. Talking to someone new is what plants a seed of community.

We should continue to sacrifice our time in order to build relationships. Even if someone seems unwilling to talk, keep taking the time to engage. Don't be pushy or force them to do something they wouldn't want to do, but take time to ask questions. Ask about their week, their job, what things they like to do for fun or in their free time. Building community takes a lot of time. Friendships hardly ever explode into full being overnight. Often, they grow slowly over a long period of consistent time and energy spent together.

Jesus said that blessed are those servants whom He will find working, being active in this type of mission. Amen