

**April 29, 2014**

For This Reason You Also Must Be Ready

Matthew 24:44 (NASB), ***“For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”***

Every few years someone comes forward saying that they have figured out when Christ is returning. Some even go so far as to name a specific date! Several years ago in May of 2011 Harold Camping of Family Radio had predicted that Christ was going to return on Saturday May 21 at 5pm. I remember that Saturday well as our youngest son was competing at the Missouri State track meet. After he was finished competing we started the long drive home from Jefferson City to Dawn Missouri. We stopped and got a bite to eat at a McDonalds in Columbia and it was around 4:30 as we were going through the drive thru. As we were awaiting on our food we were discussing Mr. Camping’s prediction and Preston said, “I guess we will know here in about a half an hour.” As we continued on home down I-70 5pm May 21, 2011 came and went and there were no cars running off the road devoid of drivers.

There have been well over 200 such recorded predictions in fact it is actually closer to 300. In the last six months there has been much attention paid to John Hagee’s book The Four Blood Moons: Something Is About To Change. While Hagee does not give a specific date as Mr. Camping did, his thesis nonetheless is that the end is near and will most likely happen within certain calendar guidelines.

The end times have always been very fascinating for people even for non-believers. Many people are curious and very interested in end times prophesy and what will happen when the world ends or wonder whether it will end at all. People watch the news and world events with deep interest and attempt to match these events up with Scripture to find the answer to the question: “When will Christ return?” Most study the Book of Revelation with the idea of finding Scripture that backs up their views on the end times or some answer to the great question of Christ’s return.

In Matthew 24:44 we are reminded by Christ to ***“be ready.”*** None of us knows when Christ will return except the Father. Verse 44 says that the ***“Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”*** In verses 42-43 it says, ***“Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.”***

What is important is whether or not we are ready for the Lord’s return. With this in mind on May 28<sup>th</sup> we will begin a new weekly Bible study on the Book of Revelation. The name of the book which will be our guide is Because The Time Is Near, by John MacArthur. As you know John MacArthur is always very faithful to the text and so we will learn the importance of what God’s Word says not what man says. I hope you will be able to join us starting May 28<sup>th</sup> and every Wednesday night after that at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall through the summer.