



FAITH

*“May your faithful love rest on us, LORD,
for we put our hope in you” (Psalm
33:22).*



The Advent of His Return

The Advent season is an excellent time to look back and prepare for what lies ahead. Advent originates from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning coming. It is a season of reminiscing and anticipation, where we gaze at the past and turn to the future. While meditating on God’s Word, I often wonder why many people were unprepared for Christ’s first appearance. And I am reminded of the lyrics from Chris Rice’s song, *Welcome to Our World*. They state, “Hope that You don’t mind our manger, How I wish we could have known, But long-awaited Holy Stranger, Make Yourself at home, Please make Yourself at home.”

I do not simply want to “wish we could have known”; I want to be prepared for His return. Jesus reprimanded religious leaders of His day for the air of superiority they displayed by claiming that “If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we wouldn’t have taken part with them in shedding the prophets’ blood” (Matthew 23:30). Though they continued to participate in the sins of their forefathers, in pretense, they asserted to be blameless, claiming these deeds were beneath them.

To avoid their erroneous perspective, I want to offer three exhortations for preparing for Christ’s return.

First, we should not arrogantly judge those who existed before us. The Pharisees’ imperfections included their inability to perceive themselves as capable of committing

IN THIS ISSUE

Note from Pastor

Pastor Appreciation

The 12 Days of
Christmas

Announcements

Good Reads

Missionary Spotlight:
McKeevers

The Prayers of the
People

Upcoming

the same sins, yet they did much worse. Their self-righteous confidence resulted in catastrophic failure. They had not only participated in killing the prophets but also wholeheartedly engaged in the persecution of the Son of God, as we would have if it were not for the grace of God. We would be murderous and callous toward Christ if God had not redeemed us. The prayer that God desires to hear from us is "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner!" (Luke 18:13). God promises to utterly purify those who have confessed their sins (1 John 1:9). Confessors leave behind the past and seize the future (Philippians 3:13); as they purge themselves of their formerly defiled flesh and soiled soul, they turn to holiness under the submission and fear of God (2 Corinthians 7:1).

The inner change in 2 Corinthians is driven by God's promises, the second objective of those who want to prepare for Christ's return. Because the Pharisees lacked perception of God's Word, they did not recognize Jesus, the Messiah, when He arrived. As spiritually blinded leaders, though they read Scripture, they did not have God's Spirit indwelling them. There is a difference between merely being cognizant of God's promises versus claiming them as our own. To be ready for Christ's return, we must interpret Scripture rightly.

Jesus castigated the Pharisees for their shallow understanding of Scripture; with their skewed perspective, they hoped to merit eternal life without the benefit of knowing Him. (John 5:39). If our motive for studying the Bible does not involve intimately communing with Jesus and making Him known to others, then our studies are in vain. We shall not recognize Him upon His return if we do not comprehend Him in Scripture. Paul explains in Ephesians that reading God's Word is the key to understanding the mystery of Christ: That He has united all peoples as one body in Christ through the church (Ephesians 3:4-6). To prepare for His return, we must be able to see Jesus in Scripture.

Third, we need to be purifying ourselves in anticipation of His return. Peter admonishes us to endeavor to lead unimpeachable, unsoiled lives while we wait for Christ's return (2 Peter 3:14). John explains that when we see Jesus at His second coming, we shall be like Him; therefore, all those who hope for His appearing must lead sanitized lives as He is holy (1 John 3:3). Paul explains that we were predetermined to be fashioned into the likeness of His Son (Romans 8:29). It is the upmost desire of believers to resemble Christ while they await His arrival. Irrefutably, His return is imminent as He stands at the portal! (James 5:9). Signs of His return are increasing, and He warns His bride to be prepared, for all needful things are occurring.

Christ is coming soon. To all those who are anticipating Christ's return, I encourage you to humble yourselves, receive grace to help study and meditate on Scripture to commune with Jesus, lead sanctified lives, and clothe yourself in His righteousness (Matthew 22:11, Revelations 19:8). Christ is not delaying His promise; instead, He is long-suffering. May your conduct glorify God as you anticipate His coming (2 Peter 3:9-11).

Let me close by reminding you of the words from Larry Norman in *I Wish We'd All Been Ready*: "There's no time to change your mind, How could you have been so blind, The father spoke the demons dined, The son has come and you've been left behind."

Don't be left behind. Be prepared for the advent of Christ.



—Pastor Caleb

"Though they read Scripture, they did not have God's Spirit indwelling them. There is a difference between merely being cognizant of God's promises versus claiming them as our own. To be ready for Christ's return we need to interpret Scripture rightly."



"This is why you are also to be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:44).



ARE YOU READY?

1. Purge your defiled flesh and soiled soul and turn to holiness under the submission and fear of God.
2. Interpret Scripture rightly.
3. Lead unimpeachable, unsoiled lives while you wait.

THANKFUL FOR OUR PASTORS

Gratitude

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879) was an English hymn writer who gave her life to Christ as a young girl. Throughout her life, she wrote many poems, devotionals, and hymns, including "Take My Life and Let it Be." As the daughter of a minister, she knew the relentless hours it took to shepherd a flock of God's people.

October was Pastor Appreciation Month, but it's never too late to pray for our pastors. You are invited to put the poem into your words and use it as a guide to lift before the Lord our men of God who preach the gospel.

*Rest him, O Father, Thou didst send him forth
With great and gracious messages of love;
But Thy ambassador is weary now,
Worn with the weight of his high embassy.
Now care for him as Thou has cared for us
In sending him; and cause him to lie down
In Thy fresh pastures, by Thy streams of peace.
Let Thy left hand be now beneath his head,
And, Thine upholding right encircle him
And, underneath, the everlasting arms
Be felt in full support. So let him rest,
Hushed like a little child, without one care;
And so give Thy beloved sleep tonight.*

*Rest him, dear Master! He hath poured for us
The wine of joy, and we have been refreshed.
Fill his chalice; give him sweet new draughts
Of life and love, with Thine own hand; be Thou
His ministrant tonight; draw very near
In all Thy tenderness and all Thy power.
Oh, speak to him! Thou knowest how to speak
A word in season to weary ones,
And he is weary now. Thou lovest him—
Let Thy disciple lean upon Thy breast, and,
Leaning, gain new strength to "rise and shine."*

*Rest him, O loving Spirit! Let Thy calm
Fall on his soul tonight. O holy Dove,
Spread Thy bright wing above him, let him rest
Beneath its shadow; let him know afresh the
Infinite truth and might of Thy dear name—
"Our Comforter!" As gentlest touch will stay
The strong vibrations of a jarring chord,
So lay Thy hand upon his heart, and still
Each over-straining throb, each pulsing pain.
Then, in the stillness, breathe upon the strings,
And let Thy holy music overflow
With soothing power his listening, resting soul.*



Pastor Caleb



Pastor Josh



Pastor Saúl

Elders



Myron Hawthorne



Dean Matteson



Dave Siu

Pray for our pastor-teachers, evangelists, and all who minister in the church, which means YOU.



Steve Smith

Deacons



Ken Hill



Curt Redecker



Brian Willoughby

Staff



Les Counts



Bev Gonda



Curtis Lewis



Clint McClure



Brad Norman



Jason Wick



Carolina Hernandez



Miriam Kuehn



Jesus Patino



Jan Smith



Nikki Pencille

"Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to him in song. For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods (Psalm 95:2-3).

"You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing, and grace before I dip the pen in the ink."

—G. K. Chesterton

10 Ways to Express Thankfulness

1. Prayer
2. Donating
3. Sacrifice
4. Words
5. Cards & letters
6. Music
7. Sharing Our Faith
8. Service
9. Value Others
10. Go the extra mile



On the First Day of Christmas My Father Gave to Me . . .

(With some musical creativity, sing this to the traditional tune)

(Note: these are not in any order. We invite you to find other relevant scriptures)

**. . . the precious hope of
all eternity**

(John 3:16).

2 gifts of grace

(John 1:16).

3 in One

Father, Son, Holy Spirit (2 Cor.
13:14, Matt. 28:19, 1 Peter 1:2).

4 inspired Gospels

Matthew, Mark, Luke,
John.

5 golden crowns

Imperishable (1 Cor. 9:24-25); Righteousness
(1 Tim. 4:8); Rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19);
Glory (1 Peter 5:4); Life (Rev. 2:10).

6 displays of Glory

Confess sin (Psalm 51:4); Forgive others
(Ps. 130:3-4); Trust God (2 Tim. 4:17-19);
Produce fruit (John 15:8); Give thanks
(Ps. 50:23); Pray (Ps. 50:15).

7 rocks of faith

Body, Spirit, Hope of calling, Lord,
Faith, Baptism, God (Eph. 4:4-6).

8 speaking gifts

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists,
Pastor-Teachers, Exhortation,
Word of Knowledge, Word of
Wisdom (Eph. 4:11, Rom. 12:6-8),
1 Cor. 12:8-10).

9 of His blessings

Kingdom of Heaven,
Comforted, Inheritance,
Filled, Mercy, Seeing God,
Children of God, Kingdom
of Heaven, Reward in
heaven (Matt. 5:1-12).

10 true commandments

One God, No images, God's name
not in vain, Sabbath day holy,
Honor parents, Do not murder, No
adultery, No stealing, No false
witness, No coveting (Ex. 20:3-17).

11 promises

Unconditional Love (Rom. 8:38-39); Never
alone (Ps. 27:10); Redemption (John 3:16);
Relationship (Ps. 139); Worth (Is. 43:1);
Plans (Jer. (29:11); Faith (Gal. 6:9); Power
(Phil. 4:13); Prayer (1 John 14:13-14); Hope
(Heb. 11:1); Community (Matt. 18:20).

12 gifts for living

Jesus (John 3:16); Eternal life (Rom. 6:23); Forgiveness (Micah
7:18-19); Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17); Wisdom (James 1:5);
Way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13); Abundant life (John 10:10);
Spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12, Rom 12:3-8, 1 Pet 4:10-11); Power,
Love, and Sound Mind (2 Tim. 1:7); Beauty for ashes (Is. 61:3);
Peace (John 14:27); Victory (1 Cor. 15:57).

The word Christmas tree comes from the
word for cross.

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in the Christian tradition that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 and runs through January 6 (the Epiphany, sometimes called Three Kings' Day—even the Bible doesn't say there were "three" kings). The four weeks preceding Christmas are known as Advent, which begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on December 24.

The history of the carol is somewhat murky. The earliest known version first appeared in a 1780 children's book, *Mirth Without Mischief*. Some historians think the song could be French in origin, but most agree it was designed as a "memory and forfeits" game—you miss a verse, you forfeit something.

The version we sing today comes from an English composer Frederic Austin; in 1909, he set the melody and lyrics, adding his drawn-out version of "five gold rings."



First Nativity Scene

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account of Francis' nativity scene comes from *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk born five years before Francis' death.

According to Bonaventure's biography, St. Francis received permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and two live animals—an ox and an ass—in a cave in the Italian village of Greccia. He then invited the villagers to come gaze upon the scene while he preached about "the babe of Bethlehem."

Merry Christmas!

REVELATION

The Revelation of Jesus Christ was given to John by God "to show his servants what must soon take place." This book is filled with mysteries about things to come. It is the final warning that the world will surely end, and judgment will be certain. It gives us a tiny glimpse of heaven and all the glories awaiting those who keep their robes white. Revelation takes us through the great tribulation with all its woes and the final fire that all unbelievers will face for eternity. We are shown the duties of all creatures and angels of heaven and the promises of the saints that will live forever with Jesus in the New Jerusalem. Like John, we find it hard to describe what we read in the book of Revelation.

This study will take us verse by verse through the book of Revelation and will explore relevant passages in other books of the Bible.

The study began on October 23 at 11:00 a.m. and is still open to attend.

For further information, contact Pat Killian @ 661-794-3680 or Pkillian2@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE



Get ready to have fun.
Get a booth now.
Plan on coming then.
Saturday, December 7

BIBLE READING PLAN

Week of November 6

- Judges 12
- Judges 13
- Judges 14
- Judges 15
- Judges 16



Follow along on
faithtoyou.com/info

BAPTISM



Take the step of obedience.
You have the opportunity to be
baptized on November 27.
Contact Pastor Josh:
pastorjosh@faithtoyou.com

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS?



Have you ever tried to imagine what Christ's return will be like? In Charles Spurgeon's *The Second Coming of Christ*, you will discover:
*The circumstances that will surround the second coming.
*What will actually happen during Jesus's reentry to the earth.
*What it means to watch for the Lord's reappearance.
*How to prepare yourself for His return.
*And so much more.



Christmas isn't the end of our celebrations—it's only the beginning. In this beautifully illustrated 25-day Advent devotional, *Emmanuel* best-selling author Ruth Chou Simons invites you to let the story of Jesus's birth change how you celebrate the season. Discover how to replace unrealistic expectations with a simple focus on experiencing "God with us" every day—all year long.





BILL AND TAMMY MCKEEVER

Bill McKeever grew up with Latter-day Saints while living in east San Diego county. "I have only good memories of those friendships," he said.

"But when I became a Christian, my friends began challenging what I believed. As I studied the LDS doctrine, it became apparent that my LDS acquaintances belonged to an organization that strongly emphasizes works as a means of justification." Bill said this prevents LDS members from knowing for sure if they are forgiven of their sins. "Sharing the good news with this people group I've come to love is the only remedy for their lack of assurance."

McKeever founded Mormonism Research Ministry, a missionary and apologetics organization that challenges the claims of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with the hope of informing the Body of

Christ about the differences between Mormonism and Christianity.

Bill has also tried to reach out to LDS church members with the truth of God's Word. He has written books about Mormonism.

He is the editor of MRM's bi-monthly newsletter *Mormonism Researched*.

His wife Tammy is MRM's office manager and is directly responsible for the database and product orders. She also does much of the bookkeeping.

McKeever said that this quote says it best. "If everything that is called Christianity these days is Christianity, then there is no such thing as Christianity. A name applied indiscriminately to everything, designates nothing" (B.B. Warfield—1851-1921).

Bill and his wife, Tammy, live in the Salt Lake City area. They have three grown children: Kristen, Kendra, and Jamin.



VOTE

Tuesday, Nov. 8

Voting in the United States is a privilege and the responsibility of all citizens of voting age.

Romans 13:4 reminds us that God puts the authorities in place to protect the good and judge the evil. But we also know that we have a higher authority as Christians. When man's law contradicts God's, "We must obey God rather than people" (Acts 5:29).

Humanity is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–28). Therefore, all life is sacred. Scientists agree—life begins at conception. As Christians, we must vote for the scriptures.

PROP 1 — NO

Proposition 1 changes the California Constitution to say that the state cannot deny or interfere with a person's reproductive freedom and that people have the fundamental right to choose:

- Whether or not to have an abortion.
- Whether or not to use contraceptives.

More information is available online at:
Pro-life Voter Guide for California

BUILDING PROGRAM



If you are considering year-end-giving before the Lord, the building program might be an opportunity. For more information:
faithtoyou.com/building



SAVE THE DATE
January 20, 2023





"Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his face always" (1 Chronicles 16:11).

Pray as the Spirit leads:

*Ken Hills continues to recover from a car accident.

*Pastor Saúl's health.

*Walter had a bone marrow transplant because of leukemia.

*Ramona McCaslin asks for prayer for her family.

*Laura and Dave Smith's daughter, Acadia, gave birth prematurely (31 weeks, two days) to a baby boy.

*Georgia Preasmyer's sister, who has diabetes and is on dialysis, is in rehabilitation.

*Chloe Hill's healing from an automobile accident.

*Robyn Coggins' sister Kimmy and her daughter, and their mother. Kimmy's husband committed suicide.

*Walt Rankin's mother, Eleanor, is recovering from a stroke.

*Gino, a relative by marriage of Nikki Pencille, has stage 4 stomach cancer with less than six months to live. Pray for salvation for him and others in the family.

*Dora Railsback's nephew Scott (51) had a major stroke and is paralyzed on his left side.

*Norma Lopez's daughter-in-law Yolanda has ovarian cancer.

*Dennis and Angelica want to continue caring for his mother, Ofelia, and they need help to face the challenges.

*John Beery is recovering from a shoulder replacement.

*Jim and Mary Thurber's oldest son is recovering from a heart attack.

*Melissa Oliver asks for prayer for her unsaved family members.

*Robert has Stage 4 lung cancer.

*Baby Jordan Ludwig has ongoing health challenges.

*Baby Emmerit Porter needs healing.

*Rosie Taylor's friend Marleen has blood cancer and is on chemo.

*Ken Hill asks for prayer for his dad's salvation.

*Sara Butler continues with radiation and gives praise that her tumor has shrunk.

*Natalie Kidman's husband David has a brain injury from a bike accident and needs salvation.

*Sharon Dison is recovering from recent brain surgery.

*Linda Schuman's overall health and her future heart surgery.

*Caesar Coons Sr. has liver cancer.

*Lynn Grandinetti is bedridden with lung and heart issues.

*Mike and Carol Macy's son Caleb will need extensive surgeries because of an injury to his eye and head.

*Lani Carle has stage 4 cancer and needs salvation.

*Sue Cull's mother is declining rapidly.

*There are many ministries at Faith. They each need prayer to reach people for Christ.

PRAISES:

Sara Butler had her last day of radiation and chemotherapy.

*Praise God for many answered prayers.

If you would like your prayer needs to go out to church members immediately, contact Laura Cox: prayer@faithtoyou.com

UPCOMING*

*Fri.-Sat., Nov. 4-5
Desert Campout
pastorjosh@faithtoyou.com*

*Sunday, Nov. 6
Growth Year Missions Trip
Parents' Meeting
12:30 p.m.*

*Friday, Nov. 11
Veteran's Day*

*Saturday, Nov. 12
Awana Great Race
10 a.m.*

*Friday, Nov. 18
Grace Resources*

*Sunday, Nov. 20
Children's Sunday School
Teacher's Meeting
12:30 p.m.*

*Thursday, Nov. 24
Thanksgiving
Give thanks!*

*Saturday, Dec. 3
Holiday Craft Boutique
8 a.m.-2 p.m.*

*Sunday, Dec. 4
Israel Meeting
1-3 p.m.*

*Friday, Dec. 16
Grace Resources*

*Friday, Dec. 16
Ladies' Christmas Dinner
6 p.m.*

*Saturday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve*

*Sunday, Dec. 25
Christmas Day*

**Faithtoyou.com/info
661-267-2200*

The Christian Standard Bible is used
unless otherwise indicated.



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