

Only The Father Knows

Concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only." (Matt 24:36)

Christ's return was brought up in a bible class a couple of years back. Many thought that His coming was imminent, and asked the teacher when he thought it would happen. After the back and forth, I added that the Second Coming wouldn't happen any time soon because of those still seeking Christ around the world. The teacher replied, "God can do whatever He wants whenever He wants," which the class found humorous.

"All that **the Father gives Me** will come to me." (John 6:37)

"**God is looking for people** who want to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth." (John 4:23)

"No one can come to Me unless **the Father draws him** to Me. (John 6:44)

The Sunday school class I mentioned wanted to herald God's sovereignty. However, the bible emphasizes His patience, love and forgiveness. The Father's special knowledge of *when* the end comes is tied directly to His search for believers. That's why He is patient, not wishing anyone to go to hell.

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing that any should perish**, (emphasis mine) but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Corinth

Prior to the Apostle Paul's arrival, there were no Christian churches in the city of Corinth. None. Nada. Zilch. The Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent...*for I have many in this city who are my people.*" (Acts 18:9 – 10) Christians did not exist in Corinth. Yet. But the seed of the gospel was needed to begin the process.

The world is just like Corinth—many are seeking. The fields are ripe but the workers are few.

When Isaiah prophesied to King Hezekiah the terrible times coming to Israel, the king replied, "The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?" (2 Kings 20:19) He cared nothing for the nation's demise, or that his sons would be castrated and made eunuchs for some

foreign king. “As long as I get mine, I don't care about anyone else!”

Many Christians think that the USA is a Christian nation, that we are God's cherished, the only light in a dark world. Yet studies done by various groups show that China is the most fertile ground today¹ for Christianity while many Americans are abandoning their faith.² My wife and I are friends with a missionary couple in Pakistan who have brought hundreds to Jesus. In view of how the scales are tipping, American Christians should be praying for themselves that God delay His coming, not hasten it.

“Christ can come any day now!” is a boast I've heard many times, and it demonstrates our lack of concern for and ignorance of missions and getting the Good News to the lost. We are like the five virgins with lamps full of fuel smirking at the other five virgins being left out of the festivities.

And Then The End Will Come

When a Samaritan town rejected Jesus's arrival, a couple of His disciples said, “Lord, do You wish that we should call down fire from heaven and consume them, as Elijah did?” But turning, He rebuked them, and said, “You do not know of what sort of spirit you are. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.” (Luke 9:54 – 56) This cavalier mentality still exists, where followers of Christ pray that the End comes and that the world be consumed by fire.

While John prayed for Christ to “come soon!” (Rev 22:20), Jesus has many waiting in the wings, so to speak. He did not come to destroy us but save us. (John 3:17) If not, the Cross was in vain.

When the light of the Gospel is sputtering and dying out of apathy for God's truth and grace, the Father will pull the plug on this world. Until that time, He is giving everyone time to repent and answer the Gospel call.

Don't forget: He waited for you. Why not give the rest of this world the same courtesy? You'll get to heaven soon enough; be patient with those who are yet struggling to get there.

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1 [Growth of Religion](#), Wikipedia

2 A recent [Gallup poll](#) showed that less than 20 percent of Americans attend church services, a significant contradiction of what we've been led to believe as far as the US being a “Christian” nation.