# a sermon from MATTHEW 24:42:

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come!"

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#### I. AN OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray for the state of The whole Church. "O GOD, You Who have established the foundations of Your Church upon the holy mountains: Grant that she may not be moved by any wiles of error which would fain compass her overthrow, nor may she be shaken by any earthly disquietude, but ever stand firmly upon [The Commandments of JESUS CHRIST and] the ordinances of The Apostles, and by... [Your] help, be kept in safety." <sup>1</sup>

Keep Your Body on earth, The Church, always watching vigilantly and ever ready patiently to receive The Second Coming of her glorified Head, our Lord JESUS CHRIST, now and always. In The Name of GOD The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost. AMEN!

# II. A SCRIPTURE VERSE – MATTHEW 24:42 – YE KNOW NOT WHAT HOUR!

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come!" <sup>2</sup>

#### III. A PROPOSITION

The Lord JESUS CHRIST's Second Coming is always immanent, yet we know not the hour of His Return, and therefore we must always watch vigilantly and be ever ready patiently!

#### IV. INTRODUCTION

There is much discussion today in our society of "The Signs of The Times" and their heralding of The Second Coming of our Lord JESUS CHRIST. Some parts of The Church today seem to talk of nothing but "The End Times," "The Rapture" of the faithful Church into Heaven before "The Tribulation" of evil upon the earth and "The Millennium." Indeed, in some Churches today, and in the lives of some Christians now, the focus is so much on these "Last Things," spoken of with such urgency, that you would think The Kingdom of GOD has been completely absent from the world of men since The Resurrection and Ascension of The Redeemer into Heaven!

Much attention is paid to MATTHEW 24 and other such Scriptures by these parts of The Body of CHRIST, where men are forever striving to collect a checklist which must be fulfilled, so that we may know The very Day and Hour of The Son of GOD's Return. Indeed, some even think that they can not only read current world and social events as a kind of redemptive cosmic clock, but seem to almost think they can force these events to occur in order to obligue The Lord's Return! Such are the vain visions and deluded dreams of some within The Church.

<sup>2</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 24:42.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 1, Catholic Family Prayer Book, p 323, 1<sup>st</sup> prayer. "Prayers for The Church...," a prayer attributed to Pope Saint Leo The Great, (440-461 AD), "Against Error."

But let us take a step back together today, and see what GOD Himself says of these things. Certainly, Holy Scripture gives us some guidance and signposts of The Return of our Saviour in Glory. But what does He say to us in MATTHEW 24:42? JESUS warns us, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come!" <sup>3</sup> And Heaven forbid that men should know The exact Day and Hour, for then our sinful nature would give us license to abound in sin, presuming upon The Grace of GOD!

Now the issues is not that we should ignore the symptoms of sin and signs of spiritual sickness in the world around us, but what The Almighty would have do because of them, and how we should live as faithful Christians is the real issue. Should we be forever so looking up to the heavens as Christians, that we are then of no earthly good? Dare we be so focused on applying and even misapplying Biblical prophecy, that we find ourselves being not only in the world, but of it as well? In both errors, GOD forbid!

What we should observe from The Word of GOD today are these 4 lessons: First, The Lord JESUS CHRIST's Second Coming is always immanent. Second, yet we know not The Hour of His Return. Third, therefore we must always watch vigilantly. Fourth, we must be ever ready patiently! The point is that He calls us to be His faithful servants and saints every day, as if each one was our last upon this earth, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come!" <sup>4</sup> But first we must address briefly what The Ground of our salvation is as Christians.

#### V. THE GROUNDS OF OUR SALVATION IN CHRIST IS THE CROSS ALONE

The Grounds of our salvation in CHRIST is The Cross alone. Saint John in REVELATION 20:1-4 records, "And I saw an angel come down from Heaven... And he laid hold on... the Devil..., and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit..., that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled... And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of JESUS, and for The Word of GOD, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with CHRIST a thousand years." <sup>5</sup>

There are various views on what Scripture prophecies of The End Times. For example, does JESUS return before or after this thousand years? Godly men and women, many knowledgeable in The Faith and holding The Holy Scriptures as The unerring and inspired Word of GOD that They are, generally fall into 3 main views on The Millennium surrounding The Second Coming of CHRIST. Postmillennialism "holds that He will return after the Millennium." Premillennialism "holds that His return precedes the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 24:42.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 24:42.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 2, KJV, REVELATION 20:1-4.

Millennium." Amillennialism "holds that there is to be no Millennium at all in the generally accepted sense of the term." <sup>6</sup>

That so many godly people who have studied these things of "The End Times" down through the ages, and have so intensely disagreed on their meaning and interpretation even still today, should tell us that exclusive focus on such issues may not be as profitable as some think they are. So let us be cautious, that we are not found to be dictating to GOD, according to our flawed and very humanly devised checklist of "End Times" events which He must do, in order that CHRIST may return! We may rest assured that The LORD has these and all things well in hand! Recall PROVERBS 18:12, "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility." <sup>7</sup>

And let us note this well, that agreement – or disagreement – with any one school of interpretation of the relevant "End Times" Scripture Passages, such as how "The Millennium" of CHRIST's thousand year reign at His return must come about, is not the grounds for our salvation as Christians! What does GOD command and what does The faithful Church declare? Heartfelt belief. Earnest repentance. True confession. Fruitful conversion. The receiving of The Sacraments, beginning with Baptism into our Lord JESUS CHRIST. The Cross, which alone is the ground of our salvation!

As Saint Paul says in ROMANS 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth The Lord JESUS [CHRIST], and shalt believe in thine heart that GOD hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Such is the beginning of the lifetime daily walk of the redeemed in CHRIST!

Matthew Henry says here, "The profession of Faith with the mouth, if there be not the power of it in the heart, is but a mockery; the root of it must be laid in an unfeigned assent to the revelation of The Gospel concerning CHRIST, especially concerning His Resurrection, which is the fundamental article of The Christian Faith, for thereby He was declared to be The Son of GOD with power, and full evidence was given that GOD accepted His satisfaction." We are saved in JESUS CHRIST and in Him alone!

#### VI. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S SECOND COMING IS ALWAYS IMMANENT

First, the Lord JESUS CHRIST's Second Coming is always immanent! The Lord and His Kingdom are here now with us in The Church militant on earth. He is here now with us in The Sacraments. He is here with us now where ever we go on this earth. He is here living within us. As Saint Paul says in ROMANS 8:11, "But if The Spirit of Him that raised up JESUS [CHRIST] from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up CHRIST

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 3, Loraine Boettner, article, "Postmillennialism," 1. Introduction, paragraph 19. Retrieved 1/13/2008 AD.

http://www.gospelpedlar.com/articles/Last%20Things/Postmill\_Boettner/a.html.

<sup>2.</sup> KJV. PROVERBS 18:12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 4, Matthew Henry Notes, ROMANS 10, Verses 1-11, III., 2., (2.), {2.}, "Secondly, Upon what terms" is our salvation in CHRIST, a.

from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you." 9 We as His saints are part of His Body now, which is The Church, and He is our Head. 10

And yet, we look around at our sin-soaked and sad suffering world, and see that The Lord's Kingdom is not yet here in full. Evil still often abounds. As Saint Paul says in ROMANS 8:22-23, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of The Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves..." 11 The Church in this world is not yet pure. Our lives as Christians are not yet perfect and without sin. For 2 millennia The faithful Church has waited and anticipated His Second coming. Even so, we say that CHRIST's Second Coming is always immanent. How so?

Just before JESUS goes to The Mount of Olives from The earthly Jerusalem Temple, Saint Luke records His Words to His Apostles in LUKE 21:34-36, that we should always be watching in faithfulness, service and prayer, never being overtaken by things of the world, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so That Day come upon you unawares... Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all These Things that shall come to pass, and to stand before The Son of Man" in The Day of The Lord! 12

As Saint Cyprian said in 250 AD, "Already His second Coming draws near to us!" <sup>13</sup> The Master's return in Glory is always immanent, and yet we still wait for it, these many centuries later! We are not to become comfortable in this fallen world, but be ever watching! John Calvin reminds us that this earthly world is not our home, for we but "...pass through the world like pilgrims." <sup>14</sup> Temptations to laxness and sin are ever hungry to distract us from The Cross. So it is good that we are called to carry our Cross daily before Him, that we may remain His faithful servants!

As Cyprian says further, "...certainly he who, by living in intemperance, has his senses overloaded with food and wine, will never elevate his mind to meditation on the heavenly life. But as there is no desire of the flesh that does not intoxicate a man, they ought to take care, in all these respects, not to satiate themselves with the world, if they

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 2, KJV, ROMANS 8:11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 2, KJV, EPHESIANS 5:23-24, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as CHRIST is The Head of The Church: and He is The Saviour of The Body. Therefore as The Church is subject unto CHRIST, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 2, KJV, ROMANS 8:22-23. <sup>12</sup> 2, KJV, LUKE 21:34-36.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 5, Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs, "Second Coming of CHRIST," p 606, 9<sup>th</sup> entry. "Cyprian (c. 250, W), 5.363."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> 6, John Calvin, Commentary on a Harmony of The Evangelists, Matthew, Mark and Luke, Third Volume, MATTHEW 24:42, p 97-98, "Watch therefore!"

wish to advance with speed to The Kingdom of CHRIST," and there dwell in safety now and forever! 15

So The Catechism of The Catholic Church explains, "Before His Ascension, CHRIST affirmed that The Hour had not yet come for the glorious establishment of The Messianic Kingdom awaited by Israel, which – according to the prophets – was to bring all men the definitive order of justice, love and peace. According to The Lord, the present time is the time of The spirit and of witness, but also a time still marked by 'distress' and the trial of evil which does not spare The Church, ...[which] ushers in the struggles of The Last Days. It is a time of waiting and watching" for our Saviour's ever immanent Return. <sup>16</sup>

# VII. YET WE KNOW NOT THE HOUR OF HIS RETURN

Second, yet we know not The Hour of His Return! Now many point to MATTHEW 24 and deduce a checklist of what must occur, according to their understanding of The Holy Scriptures, in order that The Saviour may Come Again. But a common confusion is not breaking the prophecy Therein into 2 parts, the first half predicting the then near future events of the fall of Jerusalem and destruction of Herod's Temple in 70 AD under the Titus and his Roman army, <sup>17</sup> and the second half predicting the signs of CHRIST's Second Coming in Glory. <sup>18</sup>

As JESUS went out from Jerusalem, Saint Matthew records that His disciples were eager to redirect The Master to reconsider the earthly glory of The Temple. JESUS replies to His disciples in MATTHEW 24:2, "...See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down!" So on The Mount of Olives, his disciples came to Him privately, and no doubt in great distress for the hopes of any restored glory of earthly Israel by The Lord, saying to Him, "...Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" <sup>19</sup>

Saint Tertullian in 210 AD explains the dual nature of the prophesy of MATTHEW 24, that JESUS "...first spoke to them about the order of Jewish events until the overthrow of Jerusalem. Then He spoke about The [End Times] Things that will concern all nations – up to the very end of the world..." The first was bloodily fulfilled in 70 AD as the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem and Herod's Temple. But of The End Times Things still yet to come, Tertullian asks, "Who has yet beheld JESUS descending from Heaven in a manner similar to how The Apostles saw Him ascend?" Who has yet

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> 6, John Calvin, Commentary on a Harmony of The Evangelists, Matthew, Mark and Luke, Third Volume, MATTHEW 24:42, p 97-98, "Watch therefore!"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 7, Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 672, p 192-193. "Until All Things are Subject to Him."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> 8, Fausset's Bible Dictionary, "Jerusalem," 1947.30.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 9, John Wesley, "Notes on The Whole Bible," MATTHEW 24, "3. As He sat on The Mount of Olives," p 104, 1-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 24:1-3.

seen the Jewish people en masse smiting "...their breasts, tribe by tribe, looking on Him Whom they pierced," and calling Him Lord? Who has "...yet escaped from the [advent of] the Antichrist?" <sup>20</sup>

Therefore, trying to force the current events of any one generation of men into a checklist based on the entire Text of MATTHEW 24 to predict The Day and Hour of CHRIST's Return is inherently flawed. The application of Bible prophecy to one's current age requires the objective examination of the historical facts, the interpretation then following. When we take Bible prophecy and force our interpretations to predict future events as "facts," according to our own fanciful agenda and limited perspective, we risk becoming sidetracked away from The Cross and daily living The Christian Walk. We risk being found by The Lord with our heads buried in the headlines and our necks strained in gazing up to the heavens!

John Wesley points to the division of MATTHEW 24 as in verses 34-36, "Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away. But of That Day and Hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but My Father only." <sup>21</sup> So "that great part of that generation would be passed away, but not the whole. Just so it was. For the city and Temple were destroyed thirty-nine or forty years after" The Lord spoke These Words." <sup>22</sup> The connecting verse is 35, that JESUS' Words stand forever. Wesley notes that verse 36 then begins prophesy of The Second Advent of CHRIST, "The Day of Judgement at The Coming of The Lord in Glory," which "knoweth no man - Not while our Lord was on earth..." <sup>23</sup>

Recall that The Lord had instructed The Apostles to remain in Jerusalem and await the anointing of The HOLY SPIRIT, which He promised they would receive after His Resurrection and Ascension. For they were eager to see Israel, the earthly then Kingdom of GOD, restored and expanded to full glory. So they had asked, "...Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again The Kingdom to Israel?" <sup>24</sup> He replied in ACTS 1:7-8, "...It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which The Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that The Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." <sup>25</sup>

The Catechism explains, "Since The Ascension, CHRIST's [Second] Coming in Glory has been imminent, even though 'it is not for you to know times or seasons which The Father has fixed by His own authority.' This Eschatological [that is, End Times] Coming [Again of CHRIST] could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> 5, Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs, "Eschatology, p 237, 12<sup>th</sup> entry. "Tertullian (c. 210, W), 3.561."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 24:34-36.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> 9, John Wesley, "Notes on The Whole Bible," MATTHEW 24:34, p 107.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> 9. Ibid., MATTHEW 24:36, p 108.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> 2, KJV, ACTS 1:6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> 2, KJV, ACTS 1:7-8.

the final trial that will precede it are 'delayed.'" <sup>26</sup> We know not The Day or The Hour, and therefore we are to be ever ready, and yet about our Lord's work as faithful servants!

## VIII. THEREFORE WE MUST ALWAYS WATCH VIGILANTLY

Third, therefore we must always watch vigilantly! We are called every day to walk as if, in our next breath, we shall be standing before our Saviour to give account of our lives before His Eternal Judgement Seat. Even amidst the trials of life and persecutions of The Church, most especially in our sufferings as well as in our blessings, we must keep our eyes upon our Master and be about His work which He has set before us! Watch vigilantly for The Lord in all things, for it is in the midst of deep valleys and high mountaintops that we are most easily tempted away from The Lord!

Indeed, this world is full of false gods, even the Antichrist himself, which are ready to swallow up men into the jaws of hell. And we as Christians are not immune to temptation, nor to falling into sin! As Saint Paul says in I CORINTHIANS 10:12, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall!" <sup>27</sup> For the world, the flesh and the devil are forever knocking at the door of our souls, calling us to close our eyes, fold our hands in slumber and cease from watching vigilantly!

What does Saint Peter say? He warns us in I PETER 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour!" But then he encourages us in CHRIST in verses 9-10, "Whom resist stedfast in The Faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren... But The GOD of all Grace, Who hath called us unto His eternal Glory by CHRIST JESUS, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you!" <sup>29</sup> We do not watch alone. GOD is there watching with us, that we may be vigilant in our watching and resist evil!

Of the wiles of Satan against us, Saint John says in I JOHN 2:22-24, "Who is a liar but he that denieth that JESUS is The CHRIST? He is antichrist, that denieth The Father and The Son. Whosoever denieth The Son, the same hath not The Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth The Son hath The Father also. Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in The Son, and in The Father." <sup>30</sup> Watch vigilantly, for evil is ever ready to bring trials upon and deceive the saints of GOD, that they might fall and perish!

As The Catechism says further, "Before CHRIST's Second Coming, The Church must pass through a final trial that will shake The Faith of many Believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the 'mystery of iniquity'

<sup>29</sup> 2, KJV, I PETER 5:9-10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> 7, Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 673, p 193.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> 2, KJV, I CORINTHIANS 10:12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> 2, KJV, I PETER 5:8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> 2, KJV, I JOHN 2:22-24.

in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from The Truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of GOD and of His Messiah come in The Flesh!" <sup>31</sup>

What are we to watch vigilantly for? That Day of The Glory of our exalted Redeemer, of which Saint Hippolytus says, "When at length The Judge of judges and The king of kings comes from Heaven, He will overturn the whole dominion and power of the Adversary [the devil]. He will also consume all of them with the eternal fire of punishment [that are still in rebellion against The Father Above]. But to His servants, prophets and martyrs, and to all those who fear Him, He will give an everlasting Kingdom!" <sup>32</sup> O, such a wondrous Everlasting Prize that CHRIST will give His saints when He comes again! Therefore, watch vigilantly!

## IX. AND BE EVER READY PATIENTLY

Fourth, we must be ever ready patiently! For what? To find ourselves standing before The Almighty. Now if always watching develops in the saints of GOD vigilance, then being ever ready to give account to The Lord face to face grows in us patience. As David says in PSALM 37:7, "Rest in The LORD, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his [evil] way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass." <sup>33</sup>

David says further in PSALM 40:1-3, "...I waited patiently for The LORD; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our GOD: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in The LORD!" <sup>34</sup> For all these blessings from the hand of The Almighty, David waited patiently, ever ready to receive them!

Be ever ready patiently, O ye saints of GOD! For our Lord declares in LUKE 6:22-23, "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for The Son of Man's sake. Rejoice ye in That Day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in Heaven...!" <sup>35</sup> Therefore, as Saint Mark records The Lord's warning in MARK 13:9, "But take heed to yourselves...," for we will suffer trials and persecutions for the sake of righteousness and for His Name! <sup>36</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> 7, Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 675, p 193-194. "The Church's Ultimate Trial."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> 5, Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs, "Eschatology," p 238, 6<sup>th</sup> entry. "Hippolytus (c. 205, W), 5.190."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 37:7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 40:1-3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> 2, KJV, LUKE 6:22-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> 2, KJV, MARK 13:9.

As His Body The Church, we are called to be ever ready in patience for The Lord's Second Coming. CHRIST's Bride must keep herself spotless and faithful, not being of the world, but yet still being in the world. She must not be found trying to overcome evil with evil or the world with the world. She must be found, especially when her sons and daughters endure suffering and persecution for righteousness' sake, ever ready patiently to receive her Groom, The Messiah JESUS!

So The Catechism says here, "The Church [Militant on earth] will enter The Glory of The Kingdom [fully] only through this Final Passover [of CHRIST's Second Coming], when she will follow her Lord in His death and resurrection [fully]. The Kingdom will be fulfilled, then, not by a historic triumph of The Church through a progressive [mere human] ascendancy [by being of the world], but only by GOD's victory over the final unleashing of evil, which will cause His Bride [The Church Triumphant Above] to come down from Heaven..." with The Lord in His full Glory! <sup>37</sup> And for That Day, and until That Day, we are to be ever ready patiently and faithfully!

Let us then be always watching and praying without ceasing, but at the same time being about our Lord's calling to us of faithful service and good works. As Calvin comments here, let us then watch always, "...because various allurements of the flesh are continually creeping upon us, and lulling our minds to sleep." And let us pray always, "...because it is necessary to seek... the supplies that are necessary for supporting our weakness [in The Lord], ...that GOD [The Father] may be pleased to rescue us from so deep and intricate a labyrinth [of snares]; and next, that He may present us safe and sound in [The] Presence of His Son." For only if we are fully in CHRIST now, may we then "...be permitted to stand before His Tribunal" on The Last Day, when all men's souls and lives shall be judged, and shout Hallelujah to our King Eternal! <sup>38</sup>

### X. IN CONCLUSION

Let us close with Saint Origen, who speaks of what The Almighty is calling us His saints, and all men, to – namely, Himself – that we may dwell with GOD forever. Therefore CHRIST prepares us for His Kingdom Above by working in us in His Kingdom on earth. At The Cross, The Saviour "…is taking sin away from every individual in the world until sin is taken away from the whole world. Then, The Saviour delivers The prepared and completed Kingdom to The Father – a Kingdom in which no sin is left at all.

That Kingdom is, therefore, ready to accept The Father as its King!" <sup>39</sup> It is for our entry into This Eternal Kingdom, under CHRIST our Lord, that we must be ever watching and waiting for, while being in every moment His faithful servants! And let us note well, that the question of our entry into His Kingdom depends - not on our

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> 7, Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 677, p 194. "The Church's Ultimate Trial."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> 6, John Calvin, Commentary on a Harmony of The Evangelists, Matthew, Mark and Luke, Third Volume, MATTHEW 24:42, p 97-98, "Watch therefore!"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> 5, Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs, "Eschatology," p 238, 9<sup>th</sup> entry. "Origen (C. 225, E), 4.341."

interpretive abilities of the events of The Last Days - but on our faithfulness to JESUS CHRIST our Saviour in our day by day and hour by hour walk with Him now!

So we have seen that The Lord JESUS CHRIST's Second Coming is always immanent, yet we know not The Day and Hour of His Return, and therefore we must always watch vigilantly and be ever ready patiently! As our Redeemer Himself warns us in MATTHEW 24:42, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come!" <sup>40</sup> May He find us to be faithful servants and saints when we come to stand before Him at The Eternal Judgement Seat, whether That Day be for each of us after we die and ascend to Him, or whether That Day be at His Second Coming! O Lord, may it every be so with us! In The Name of GOD The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost. AMEN!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 24:42.

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