

Covenant Life

- Our next **prayer meeting** is next Sunday, December 8th at 3pm. We plan to have Children and Youth ministries. We will also have a **CCGD Christmas dinner** after the gathering sponsored by the CCGD Youth Ministry. Please make plans to come and stay for the food and fellowship.
- Our **2025 Stewardship Promise & Recommitment Drive** is active, and we want to hear from everyone, please click [2025 Promise](#) if you have not yet responded.
- [GodsDelight.org](#) has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

Advent literally means "coming" or "arrival". It is well understood that Advent is the period where we prepare and await our Lord and Savior's birth on Christmas. What we may not be as aware of is that Advent also serves as a time of preparation for Jesus's anticipated Second Coming. This later aspect of Advent reveals itself prominently when we ponder the readings that the Church chooses for us at mass. These end-of-time selections attempt to draw our attention away from our day-to-day routine and focus us on preparing for His Second Coming.

I recall reflecting on this as a young man. Reading that the Earth is estimated to have existed for four and a half billion years it was easy to dismiss thinking it would end today. Similarly, as a youth, thinking I had my whole life in front of me, it was easy to dismiss anything more than a casual thought about my last day.

So why does the Church annually focus these weeks of our attention on end-times? And, given the focus on end-times, why would this be something to 'celebrate'?

Consider this quote attributed to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "*The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.*" These seem like wise words. The world, the flesh, and the devil would have us believe we are invincible, to put a positive spin on everything, to enjoy life to the fullest...

As Christians, with our eyes on Jesus, are our souls troubled by what we see in our world today? Do we embrace being poor in spirit? Are we cognizant of our failings and ever humble in confessing and trying harder to follow His example? Do we see this world and all it has to offer as a distraction from our eternal destiny?

Let us allow God's grace to enter every aspect of our lives, to take hold and control of everything we do, to lead us to the eternal life that He intends for us. If we are able, day-after-day, to live in His perfect will, we will be assured that we will never be caught off guard regardless of whether today is the day of Jesus' Second Coming or whether it is the day that we breath our last.

Questions that we can ask ourselves during our celebration of Advent...do I spend time each day inviting God's Holy Spirit into my life and routine? Do I hear and recognize His voice revealing His good and perfect will for my life? Is there something specific God is asking of me while I await His coming?

Let us pray, "Lord God, I pray that I will always know Your will and am always being led by Your Spirit and grace to accomplish Your perfect will for my life. I never want to be caught by surprise. Allow me to live today and every day as if it were my last...in peace, full of hope and love...Love for You and for those You have called into my life. Give me the grace to not be comfortable in this life, to recognize my own poverty and imperfections and to always have my focus and attention on You and the greater things to come."

God Bless,
David