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### *Devotion for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022*

*"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come."*

*- Mark 13:32-33*

**With every disaster that makes the news, natural or man-made, we are beset by doomsday prophets, telling us that they have discerned that the end is near.** Of course, this completely contradicts what Jesus, the Lord of heaven and earth, said and so must be false. Try as we might there simply is no way to know when He will return. On the other hand, though, there have been and will continue to be signs of His Second Coming since the day of the Ascension itself.

It really could be on any day, at any moment that Jesus returns. And so, the message of Mark chapter 13 which is a section of Scripture known as the Little Apocalypse, is to "live like it."

Now what Christians often miss is that Jesus' return is a good thing for them. Indeed, already the Resurrection looks forward to the Second Coming prompting St. Paul to write about that relationship in detail in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15.

*"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep...For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power." (1st Corinthians 15:20, 22-24)*

Note also here that on Judgment Day the ones who are destroyed are those who stand opposed to God and His Christ, not we who believe. Certainly, as believers, we know our sin and recognize exactly what we deserve for it. It is for this reason that we also need to regularly hear that our God is a God of mercy, not counting our sins against us for Christ Jesus' sake.

Therefore, as we continue our march cross-ward this Lent, continue to focus upon what this selfsame Lord Jesus has done for you there, earned the

forgiveness of that sin which still plagues you, receiving already the punishment, of death in your place until with the apostle you learn to say, daily, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Praise be the Holy Name of Jesus forever. Amen.

*God's blessings,  
Rev. Kevin Loughran, Senior Pastor  
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