

# FAITH matters

December 5, 2022

## Camping out in the End Times

There are some folks who seem to love camping out in the “End Times”. If you listen to some of the so-called “prophetic” preachers, they are always trying to read the signs of the times to determine when Jesus will return. For them, frequent earthquakes, fires and floods are not matters of climate change, but rather evidence that we are living in the End Times. One of their favorite topics is the cryptic “Mark of the Beast, #666.” So a friend sent me this photo of ministers campground on Route 666. Clever.



The season of Advent looks back to the first advent of Christ and also looks forward to the second advent, the return of Christ. The New Testament writers lived in the anticipation of that day when the world would see the fulfillment of God’s dream, as Pastor Anne described in on the First Sunday of Advent. They longed for that day, believing they were living in the End Times.

For two thousand years, whenever the church has been at its best, it has lived with an awareness that time is precious; that in fact, time is short and this day could be my “end time” or the final end of time. To believe we are living in the end times is not a call to camp out on the highest hill with our eyes fixed on the eastern sky watching for Jesus’ tootsies to break through the clouds. Rather it

is a call to live these days with a sense of urgency, to be about the business of the Kingdom in the time we have because we know no matter how long we live, time is to be used wisely.

In the end, Jesus says no one knows when that time will come, not even the Son of God himself. Our job is to be so busy doing the work of Christ so when he does come, he will take us by surprise.

And so with every generation in every time, we sing,

*Come Thou Long-expected Jesus,*

*Born a Child and yet a King.*

*Born to reign in us forever,*

*Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.*

May our Advent prayer for these end times and every time be “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, in us, as it is in Heaven.”

~Written by Rev. Jack Harnish



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