

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The Lord is at hand to redeem the nations. He comes to set us free. The Holy Church daily longs for His Coming. He comes to loose the bonds that bind us, to heal us for all time and eternity, to usher us into the New Creation. We joyfully, repentantly prepare for His final Advent. Faith years for His Coming. Faith makes ready.

“Remember the Law of Moses”, God exhorts through the Prophet Malachi. He exhorts each of us to do so – to remember the Law of Moses. For the Law of Moses, the Ten Commandments given through the Prophet, are God’s will for each of you. They describe what God expects, what God desires, what God demands from you as you await His return. So the Apostle speaks the same warning as the Prophet: “Whatever things were written before were written for our learning.”

God points you to the Words of His Prophets and His Apostles for your benefit. It is His revealed will. If you do not know the Scriptures, you do not know God. If you will not study the Scriptures, you cannot grow in faith. The Holy Spirit works through Means. If you will not avail yourself of those Means, you refuse the work of the Holy Spirit. Where faith has been created, separated from the Means of Grace and the Holy Spirit, faith withers and dies. And where faith is absent, the Day of the Lord is one of wrath and terror.

So remember the God-given Law of Moses. Remember His statutes and His judgments. Whatever things were written before were written for your learning. God has given you the revelation of His will. But that is not an academic exercise. He doesn’t give you His Words so that you can become expert in them and impress others.

He did not cause Prophets and Apostles and Evangelists to write so that you can pass a quiz or finish Confirmation and then forget them. He gives you His Word because His Word is efficacious. He desires that you know His will, His promises, and that wise unto salvation you see the signs of the end. In mercy He wants you to be ready for His Coming.

So the Lord taught His disciples, and they wrote His Words that you be warned, that you hear those same Words this day: “There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth... So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near.”

So look about you. You see distress of nations as never before. You see distress in our nation as never before. Tsunamis and floods show forth the signs the Lord has promised from the sea. Godless men live in fear, but not in the fear God demands. The secular world rejects God. They have no fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. Not knowing God, they know no cure for death.

So epidemics and viruses strike fear in them because they are ignorant of God’s will, ignorant of salvation, ignorant of the life to come. Death shatters their paradigm. Death proves that man cannot heal himself. And that ignorance, self-imposed ignorance, the rejection of the Word of

God, consigns them to a horrible eternal fate, a just fate, the place of endless gnashing of teeth, where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched. And that Day comes soon. As the Lord Himself teaches: the Kingdom of God is near.

For those who would not repent that day brings condemnation and eternal punishment. But for those with faith in Jesus Christ, that day brings everlasting joy. The Day that brings the fire that burns the wicked like stubble is the Day on which the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings, healing for all those who fear His Name.

So it is in mercy that the Lord warns you. He gives you the signs. Be ready! His Coming is nigh. The Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord comes. Prepare! Repent. Turn from your sins and lusts and fleshly desires. Turn from your complacency towards God and His Word. Strive to learn and to do His will. For this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.

The Lord does more than warn you. He gives you His Word. He gives you the inspired, inerrant record of the Incarnation of the Only Begotten Son of God. Through the Prophets and Apostles and Evangelists you learn that the Son of God, begotten from eternity, took on Flesh to redeem you. You learn that He suffered and died for you. You learn that He was buried for you. And you come to know the greatest Mystery of time and eternity – that the lifeless Son of God took up His life again. And He did it for you.

Knowing that, believing the Gospel, you have a knowledge that surpasses human understanding. For the Spirit of the Living God works through those Divine Words to create faith in you. Faith brings you to true sorrow for your sins. Faith brings you hope in the face of your fallenness, trust that the Sun of Righteousness has arisen with healing in His wings, healing for you, healing by the forgiveness of all your sins, healing by your restoration to a right relationship with God.

So remember the Law of Moses. For the signs have already begun. The tree, as the Lord taught 2000 years ago, is already budding. Heaven and earth will pass away. But the Word of God will by no means pass away. And to you who receive that Word, to you who believe, that fiery Day will be the Day of your redemption. For the Son of Man will come in a cloud with power and great glory, to deliver you to your eternal rest.

For you who remember God's Word, for you to whom the Holy Spirit brings forgiveness and life through the Word, for you who believe it, for you who order your lives according it, the coming Day will be the Day of joy. So it is that you, dear Christian, as the Apostle writes, through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures, you have hope.

You have confidence. Tribulations and afflictions and epidemics will come. But you do not live in fear. You face the trials and dangers of this world clinging to Christ your Savior. You do as the Apostle encourages. You "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" You praise and laud Him, the Lord who died and rose for you, for in Him do you put your hope.

Christ became a Servant to the circumcision for the Truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, the Law of Moses, the things written before, that you might glorify God for His

mercy. Heaven and earth will pass away, but His Word will by no means pass away. The Word of God remains forever.

The Last Day, the Day that comes soon, the Day of the final Advent of your Lord, is the Day in which you will be united to your King. To strengthen you as you wait, your Coming Lord gives you His Body and Blood this day. You eat and drink Christ. You kneel before His altar, and you lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near. Soon the Lord will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and you shall have gladness of heart.

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