



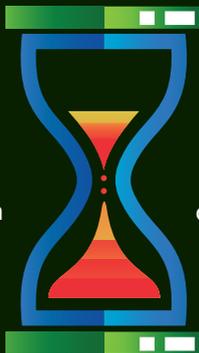
THE VICAR WRITES

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THE URGENCY OF TIME

Reflecting on the catastrophic damages brought about by the global COVID-19 pandemic* for the past two years, the war in Ukraine, the political situations in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, the tension between China and other nations, global economic crisis, crash of crypto currencies, global inflation, global shortages of food, and the severe impact of climate change, we need to once again consider our Lord's teaching on the signs of the end of age more seriously (Matt 24: 3-14).

While there is no need for us to live in fear, we also do not want to be caught unprepared for our Lord's second coming. We have been taught not to speculate the time when Christ return, for we do not know the day and hour when Christ will return on His second coming (Matt 24:36), but that may have somehow resulted in us becoming complacent in our mindset towards our preparation for the end of time. Perhaps for some, the concern of the end of time is not on our mind. We may have presumed that it will somehow not happen in our lifetime. If that is how we view the end of time, we need to re-think and be better acquainted with the teaching of our Lord on this topic. We should also be better acquainted with subjects pertaining to the issues of concern, for example the impact of climate change and shortage of



food. It's our social and Christian responsibility as God has entrusted the care of the earth to His creation.

How can we prepare ourselves for Christ's second coming and the end of time? Jesus indicated two things that are important – “But the one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matt 24:13) and “this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matt 24:14). The first refers to how we are to stand firm in our faith despite the challenging time. We need to be better acquainted with social issues as we continue our journey to become a disciple of a certain kind. The latter reminds us to remember and to focus our resources on our missions – to proclaim the gospel to the end of the world. Much has been said about evangelism and outreach. It is time for us to get our act together to proclaim the Good News, wherever the Lord may have placed us – marketplace, community, camps, hospitals, and so on. We need to realise that there is greater urgency today. As a church we need to be prepared and stand ready in such a time, for we have been called to be the beacon of light to show the world the way to Jesus Christ.

Are we attuned to the time and season we are in?

*As of 7am 25 Jul 2022, 6.38M deaths & 570M reported cases.