



THE VICAR WRITES

REVD CANON DR LEWIS LEW

Are you ready for Advent?

Advent is a season we celebrate the birth of Christ and remember His second coming. Often our attention is on the former and we usually ignore the latter. Our natural inclination is to celebrate and not wanting to focus on the end of times. Jesus said, "Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!" (Revelation 16:15).

Unfortunately, when it comes to living biblically, we are so lured by the lies of Satan and as a result we compromise the way we prepare for our Lord's second coming. We often feel no urgency to live right with God and we instead choose to fulfill the desire of our flesh. "Live for the now" we tell ourselves, and we rationalise, "It's okay, when the day gets nearer, I will get my life right with God." If that is what we are thinking, we are on dangerous ground. Have we become complacent with our spiritual life? Are we going through the motion of church but have no real relationship with God and urgency for the things of God?

Today, there is a greater urgency of time. As we consider what is happening in our world today—we need to be concerned—because the signs for the end of times have become even clearer—the rise of false prophets and false teachings, love of believers growing cold, biblical moral values becoming less accepted, wars and political conflicts, earthquakes, natural disasters, and people abandoning their Christian faith,

and let's not forget famines and food crisis that cause 1 person to die of hunger every 4 seconds or nearly 22,000 each day. The second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is perhaps drawing nearer than when we first believed. The night is gone, and the day is at hand, we need to be awake from our spiritual slumber. We need to overcome our spiritual lethargy with a new sense of urgency for the things of God.

Church, I call us to focus on four basic spiritual disciplines, to be spiritually alert. 1) Prioritise the reading and studying of God's word, 2) prioritise personal and corporate prayer, 3) prioritise cell group as part of our community life and growth, and 4) prioritise personal evangelism. It is in keeping these basic spiritual disciplines that we do not fall into spiritual lethargy.

If you are at a crossroad and wanting to discern your purpose in life, I'd like you to consider our in-house ministry internship programme—Journey of Purpose (JOP). JOP is a 40-week full-time internship programme that takes you deeper in your relationship with God, and to discover His calling in your life. For more information on JOP visit our Cathedral website <https://cathedral.org.sg/events/single/journey-of-purpose> and join us for the Q&A session on 7 Jan 2023.



A Blessed Advent!