

Divine Appointments: Death, Judgment, and the Return of Christ

Hebrews 9:24-28

Appointments fill our planners, our calendars, our smart phones, tablets and pads! We get text alerts concerning upcoming appointments. There are many important appointments in life, yet none so important as divine appointments! It is strange to speak of an appointment with an unknown date or time. These divine appointments are known to God alone!

- **The time of our _____.** (27) *(Psalm 31:14-15, Job 14:1-5, Job 14:12-16, Eccl 3:1-2)*

We are quickly approaching the one-year anniversary of the global pandemic known as COVID-19. One thing is certain, 2020-2021 has been difficult in more ways than we can mention. It has, however, reminded us of an all-too-certain reality: man's frailty and mortality.

Today we live in the "modern" age with high-tech medical procedures and state-of-the-art treatments, resulting in a much higher life expectancy; yet in the end, death comes. Death is the unavoidable reality, the unshakable foe ever upon our heels.

Our times are in His hands! For the Christian, we do not ignore this reality. We face it with an eternal perspective and a blessed hope. Our hope is in the One who has conquered death in His own dying!

(Heb 2:14-15, 1 Cor 15:54-57) We recognize that the cause of death is sin, but also the sting of death is sin! Jesus has disarmed death, removing its stinger! ***(Psalm 116:15, Revelation 14:13)***

Note: the only way to be ready to die is to be "found in Christ." Christ died that we might live!

- **The time of the _____.** (27b) ***"Because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."*** ***(Acts 17:31)***

The next divine appointment for us may be death or the day of judgment. For you see, if we die, we will certainly face the judgment, and if we are alive at His second coming, we will certainly face the judgment. Either way, no one escapes the judgment. ***(Eccl 12:13-14, Romans 2:5, Rom 14:9-12, 2 Cor 5:10, 2 Tim 4:1)***

Note: the only way to be prepared for the judgment is to be "found in Christ," clothed with His righteousness.

- **The time of Christ's _____.** (28b) Opinions concerning the return of Christ are as many and varied as there are people. We have Pre-Millennialism, historical Pre-Millennialism, Post-Millennialism, A-Millennialism, Pre-Millennial Mid-Tribulationism, Pre-Wrath, and Pan-Millennialism (It will all pan out in the end).

Despite differences on the millennial age, and the events leading up to the return of Christ, these end-time views agree about more than they disagree. None of these deny the basic teaching of the **Apostles' Creed: "He will come to judge the living and the dead."** We share one central hope in Jesus' victory.

(Acts 1:10-11, Titus 2:13, John 14:3, Matthew 26:64, Matthew 16:27, Matthew 25:31, 1 Thess. 5:1-3,)

Here are the facts:

- **Apart from Christ, you are not ready to die!**
- **Apart from Christ, you are not ready to face the judgment.**
- **Apart from Christ, you are not ready for His appearing! And it could be today!**