

Like a thief in the night

Have you ever been robbed? In December 1989, just before Christmas, I returned home from college one afternoon to find our back door standing wide open. It had been kicked in by thieves who had robbed our home and the home of my aunt and uncle down the road. All of our Christmas presents and many valuable things had been stolen from us. We were devastated. Needless to say, the burglars did not give any warning that they were coming.

That's just how the Bible describes the second coming of Christ in judgment. In Matthew 24: 42-44, Jesus Christ said, *"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him."*

Other Biblical writers borrowed the Lord's metaphor. For example, the apostle Peter wrote, *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."*

(2 Pet. 3:10; cf. 1 Thess. 5:2; Rev. 3:3; Rev. 16:15)

Even though different preachers and religious groups have tried to predict when Jesus Christ is coming again, they have all been wrong and they will continue to be wrong. Just as the coming of the thief is unknown and unexpected, even so will be the return of our Lord in judgment. But even though we cannot know the date, we can be ready to face Him in judgment. Like the old hymn says, "There's a great day coming...Are you ready?"

BULLETIN DIGEST
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Travis Quertermous
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Dexter,

Welcome!

Upcoming Events

- **VBS Meeting** immediately following services this morning. If you have questions, please see Kevin or Mary.
- **Elders, Preachers, Deacons & Ministry Leaders** will be having their monthly meeting on Sunday, May 18th at 4:00 PM.
- **Crafter's Meeting** – All ladies are invited to the Crafter's Get-together on Sunday, May 18th from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM in the Upper Fellowship Hall.
- **Graduates Recognition Night** will be this evening, May 18th. Please bring finger foods and come celebrate after services with the graduates.
- **Nursery School Graduation** – Our Nursery School will be having their graduation ceremony on Monday, May 19th at 7:00 PM.
- **Vacation Bible School** – If you would like to help with VBS, please see Mary or Kevin ASAP. VBS is June 8th – 12th from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. There will be a picnic on June 12th at Castle Creek Park in Grafton.
- **Mid Ohio Valley Work Camp** – This will be June 22nd – 27th. Please see Joel for more information.

Prayer Requests ♥

- ♥ Please continue to remember Jim Stout, Ellen's husband, in your prayers.
- ♥ Joan Lough will be having eye surgery on June 11th in Morgantown. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.
- ♥ Edwina Summers has a doctor appointment in the near future.

News & Notes

- ◆ A special "Thank You" to Rob Pugh for creating the Graduates Slide Show that you will be enjoying this evening!
- ◆ Also, "Thank You" to Paul Sparks for all the work he does on the office computers and our sound system. You are both very much appreciated!

One Liners...

"Opportunity may knock only once, but temptation bangs on your door forever."

"To make a long story short, don't tell it."

"It's easier to preach ten sermons than to live just one."