

We Don't Know the Hour

The maternity waiting room at Forsyth Hospital was buzzing with anticipation. Families huddled together awaiting the birth of a new bundle of joy. Cell phones buzzed constantly as family members checked in on the progress.

After six hours in the waiting room the now familiar ring tone next to me brought the excitement we all wanted to hear for ourselves. "We have a baby," declared the proud grandfather. Everyone gathered around to see the first photo of the new baby in his family, sent to his cell phone. A minute later the same ring tone signaled more photos. New babies bring out the best in everyone. God has presented a new opportunity to add to His Kingdom.

The long wait by all the families in the waiting room was clear evidence that none of us knew the hour when the birth would occur. For us, it would eventually mean a 12-hour day in the waiting room.

Christians are waiting for Jesus Christ's return. We know Jesus will return, but we don't know when. And when he does come it will be for a different purpose – to bring the faithful with Him to Heaven. *So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are early waiting for him (Hebrews 9:28).*

For our family we rushed to the waiting room at 11 AM, when the signs pointed to an accelerated labor. *So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him (Matthew 24:44).* We weren't alone in the waiting room. It was now past 11 PM and most of the same families we met in the morning were still in the waiting room. Who knows when God will deliver a baby into the arms of the expectant mothers? Only God knows the hour when that will happen. The same is true of the expected second coming of Jesus Christ. *But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father (Mark 13:32).*

Will you be ready when Christ returns? As *Hebrews 9:28* clearly tells us, this is not the time to suddenly become a believer. Jesus taught us, by example and word, how to live. He died the death that we deserve. He told us what we must do to receive eternal life. At that coming, our opportunity to come to faith will have passed. Jesus will come to take those of faith home with Him for the eternal reward.

Be ready.

Question: What steps are you taking to be ready for when Jesus returns?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We don't know when Jesus will return to take us home, but we pray we will be ready to join You in Heaven. Amen.

