

WITH US: Advent Week One
Waiting, Watchful and Expectant
Pastor Jeff Borden
November 27, 2016
Matthew 24:36-44

- Why, Why, Why? (The questions we have and may want answered)
•Why Advent?
•Why is Advent important to me and the Church?
•Why should I observe it, support it and participate in it?
No one knows the day or hour...
When the Son of Man returns...
So you, too, must keep...! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming.
Key Terms:
•Advent—The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word parousia, meaning "coming" or "arrival."
•Parousia—presence; coming; arrival
•Maranatha—(Aramaic), either: Our Lord has come, or: Our Lord comes (will come, is at hand).
A Brief History: The practice of/ and recognition of the season of Advent began sometime between the 4th and 5th centuries.
How (should I or can I engage this important season of the Church)?
What (should I expect from my engagement)?
Ideas and Advent resources (books available through Amazon.com)
•For families: Christmas is Coming But Waiting is Hard—Family Activities and Devotions for Advent
•The Spirit of Advent: The Meaning is in the Waiting by Paula Gooder
•The Season of the Nativity by Sybil MacBeth
•For the one who appreciates music (especially carols and hymns): O Come Emmanuel: A Musical Tour of Daily Reading for Advent and Christmas by Gordon Giles
•Daily online devotionals through the season: http://www.pts.edu/devotional\_1

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**LifeGroup and Personal Study Questions**

- What does "God with us" mean to you personally? How do you experience "God with you?"
- Jesus commanded us to "keep awake," reminding us that we "must be ready" because "no one knows" when He will return (Matthew 24:36-44). How do you measure your waiting, watching and readiness?
- Do you think that waiting and watching for Jesus is specifically related to the "end times" and/or the final return of Jesus? How might you be involved in waiting and watching...even recognizing Jesus' coming day-to-day? Can you give specific illustrations?
- Can you describe some of the things that cause you to struggle with your waiting and watching for Jesus?
- What are some intentional steps (disciplines and/or spiritual exercises) that might be useful in training your heart, soul, mind, strength to be more alert to God's presence (parousia/advent) among you and within you all through your day?
- If you were to choose one thing to begin this change of being more intentional in practicing the presence of God with an expectantly watchful attitude, what would it be?
- Now that you've chosen one area to work on, what is your next (specific) step to help you reach this goal? Is there a resource that might be helpful for you? Is there someone who might be an encouragement and training partner along the way?

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