ADVENT 2026

# JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH ANTICIPATION

ADVENT
Remember to Anticipate

PONDER › PRAY › PRACTICE › PROCLAIM

**Big Truth: Jesus Followers Wait With Anticipation**
*Revelation 22:20; Galatians 5:5; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Corinthians 3:11-14; James 1:12*

> **Read and study 2 Timothy 4:1-8.**
> **Ponder:** Ponder the appearing of Christ.
> **Pray:** Respond in prayers that treasure and long for Christ's appearing beyond the treasures and promises of this world.
> **Practice:** Be purposed to put to death your love for the present world and love the appearing of the Lord.
> **Proclaim:** Preach the Word at all times, patiently calling one another to hold fast to sound doctrine.

## » PONDER →

**Ponder the appearing of Christ.**
Jesus is coming again. He comes to bring a new creation, to destroy every enemy rule, power, and authority, and to complete His redemptive plan. *(Revelation 21:1–6; 1 Corinthians 15:24–26; Revelation 16:17; Ephesians 1:10)*

*The following questions can act as a guide for your meditation on this truth and its implications, helping both your personal reflection and your conversation with others in light of God's Word.*

- What is Christ's appearing? What does His appearing bring?
  - Consider verses like Revelation 21–22, Matthew 16:27–28, Matthew 25:31–34, and 1 Corinthians 15:23–28.
- How do we *love* Christ's appearing?
  - What is the difference between believing Jesus will appear one day and loving, anticipating, or longing for His return? Consider Paul's charge to Timothy in this passage, alongside other cross references like 1 Timothy 6:11–19, Matthew 6:19–21, and 1 John 2:15–17.
  - Reflect on your own life. What do you most treasure? What do you most love? What would you be most devastated to lose?
- What is the connection between loving Christ's appearing and truth?
  - What is the importance of the Jesus follower being "sober-minded" (2 Timothy 4:5; 1 Peter 1:13–16)?
  - What is the danger of accumulating teachers to suit your own passions (2 Timothy 4:3)? How have you seen or experienced this danger in your own life, or the lives of those you're close to?
- Do you love Christ's appearing, or are you in love with the present world?

## » PRAY →

**Respond in prayers that treasure and long for Christ's appearing beyond the treasures and promises of this world.**
Read 2 Timothy 4:8 and pray in worship of the Lord whose appearing is worthy to be loved over all of the things of this present world.

- This world is passing away. The hopes and treasures of this world will be shaken, and only the unshakeable will remain (Hebrews 12:27).
- Pray in confession of the worldly treasures that you are tempted to pursue or find value in. Ask God to give you eyes to behold Him, to rightly see the glory of His redemptive plan that will be fulfilled at His return. Ask the Lord to grow your trust in and longing for His unshakeable kingdom.
- Father, you are the righteous judge, and you have said that you will award the crown of righteousness to all who have loved your appearing. Help me to fix my eyes on your promised return, living and waiting in joyful anticipation for when you will make all things new. When I am tempted to prize the things of this life, would you keep me from obtaining the things I want. When my mind is distracted and dulled, help me to be sober-minded. Strengthen me to endure, to fight the good fight, and to keep the faith.

# JESUS FOLLOWERS WAIT WITH ANTICIPATION



## PRAY

Read Revelation 22:20 and pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

## PRACTICE

His people eagerly wait for His return, living every day with a love for His appearing over the present world, longing for the crown of righteousness that He will award. **In light of the truth that Jesus followers wait with anticipation, be purposed to put to death your love for the present world and love the appearing of the Lord.**

**Put to death your love for the present world**

- Spend time in prayerful personal reflection: What do you love?
  - Where are you tempted to believe that there is value inherent in the things of this world?
  - Consider practical evidence that reveals your loves, such as your calendar and how you spend your time, your bank account and how you spend your money, your frequent conversation topics and what is most often on your mind.
- This week, seek to live open-handed, to yield your will to the Lord's will. Do not store up treasures on earth.
  - What plans will make you the most sad, annoyed, or frustrated if they don't happen? What possibilities do you most dread about the next week? These things may reveal worldly idols.

**Love the appearing of the Lord**

- Follow the example of Paul: fight the good fight, keep the faith.
  - Be on guard against temptations that would lead you to become passive or sluggish in your faith, or those that would lead you to live contrary to your profession that Jesus is Lord.
- Be sober-minded (1 Peter 5:8).
  - Be on guard against worldly influences. These may come from within yourself and your own emotions and idols, or from others. Be mindful of the people you listen to, the entertainment or news you take in, and the worldview of the culture around you. Measure everything against the steadfast truth of God's Word.
- As you experience suffering or encounter hard things, remind yourself of the hope that is ahead when Christ returns.
  - Consider helpful practices like memorizing Scripture that can help you anticipate Christ's return (such as 1 Peter 1:6–7) or asking a friend to faithfully remind you of truth when you are struggling.

## PROCLAIM

**As we wait with anticipation for Christ's appearing and kingdom, we are charged to preach the Word at all times, patiently calling one another to hold fast to sound doctrine.**

- Seize every opportunity you have to talk about the things of the Lord, to make much of Jesus.
  - What opportunities are in front of you to proclaim God's Word?
  - What opportunities are in front of you to reprove, rebuke, and exhort your brothers and sisters in Christ?
  - What opportunities are in front of you to patiently teach others?
- Seize every opportunity to share about your greatest love.