

December 2017

From the Pastor



## Waiting for Jesus

Our Sunday service closest to Christmas this year will be on December 24<sup>th</sup>. After the morning service, we will have our traditional Christmas Eve evening service at 6:30pm.

As I thought about the morning service, I started thinking about what Mary may have been going through the day before Jesus was born. I'm sure she was uncomfortable riding on a donkey. I wonder if they had to stop a lot of times for her to go to the bathroom as God pressed against her bladder.

As I was thinking about this I ran across this passage in a letter from Paul to the Thessalonians. It talks about getting ready for the return of Christ.



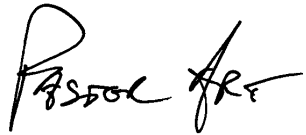
<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. (1Thessalonians 5:1-4 ESV)

Christmas is a time when we celebrate God coming to us as a human baby. You never know when babies are going to arrive. You have clues, but nothing is certain until the day of the baby's arrival.

We don't know when Jesus will return. When He does, it will be a very different return. Jesus came to this earth first as a humble sacrifice for our sins. When He returns, He will be the mighty judge for the sins of mankind.

We all enjoy the peaceful, warm, touching views of the baby Jesus. I hope you are ready for the not so peaceful return of Jesus.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Aré". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.