

WANTING TO KNOW WHEN

The question that most people are asking right now is “WHEN”?

- When will the restrictions be lifted?
- When will my kids be able to get back to school?
- When will sports like hockey, basketball, and baseball resume?
- When can I gather with friends and relatives?
- When will restaurants open so I can enjoy a meal out again?
- When will I be able to get my hair cut?
- When can I get back to work?
- When will there be a cure or vaccine?
- When will we be able to get back to church?

When is a common question being asked by so many right now, and we want certain specifics included when it comes to the answer:

- A specific day
- A specific time

Unfortunately, when it comes to these questions surrounding COVID19, nobody can provide us with exact “when’s”. We are encouraged by our leaders and medical professionals to be patient. Premiers have released plans with respect to how they will begin to reopen their provinces to business, but they tell us these are just guidelines and give us no specific dates as to when each stage will begin to happen.

It is hard for us not to know exactly “when” we should expect something. We like to know. It gives us a sense of certainty and a feeling of some control over our lives. Not knowing exactly “when”, can be a difficult walk for many of us. What should provide us with some comfort in a time of uncertainty like this is the knowledge that “God Knows When”.

Jesus’ disciples came to learn this truth one day. In Mark 13, we are told that as Jesus was leaving the temple one of the disciples began to comment to Him about the beauty of its design and structure. Jesus told them how one day it would be destroyed and left in ruins. Naturally, the disciples wanted to know “when” this would happen. Jesus then gave them a vivid picture of the events that would lead up to the destruction of the Temple. Jesus went on a bit further and also shared with them the events of the “end times” leading to His return. Nowhere in this passage does

Jesus provide them with an exact time when these things would happen. What He did share with them was:

“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in Heaven or the Son Himself. Only the Father knows.

The truth that Jesus was pointing out to His disciples was that God is both all knowing and in complete control of the “when”. Jesus was trying to teach them that instead of trying to calculate the answer to “when”, they should trust the Father each day and live prepared and watchful for Christ’s return.

Just like the disciples there are so many things about our COVID19 reality about which we would like to know the answer to “when?” Nobody knows for sure except for God the Father. This time of uncertainty – of not knowing when – will be a true test of our faith and trust in our Heavenly Father.

- Are we okay with God knowing what we do not?
- Are we comfortable with leaving God in control?
- Do we trust that God will work everything out in His time?

There is no doubt our faith is being tested as we wait through the unknowns of this pandemic. But faith tells us God does know when, and we can trust Him completely and wholeheartedly despite not knowing. I pray that it is this kind of faith and trust that you have in your Heavenly Father at this moment. As we prepare for the gradual opening of our society may it be a time in which you also examine your spiritual walk to ensure you are prepared and ready when Jesus does return. We don’t know when that will happen either but being prepared and watchful was also part of Jesus’ advice.

I wish I could tell you when we might be able to return to worship together again. Many of you have asked me that question when I have called. Our Father in Heaven knows, and when that day happens there will be a lot of joy on our part as we worship. Until then, prepare your hearts each day to keep trusting in your Heavenly Father who knows all things including the answer to life’s “when’s”.

God Bless,

Rev Dean