Name: _____

REGULAR LESSON

Waiting Well: The Church Between the Comings

TODAY'S BIG IDEA	The whole Christian life is an Advent: we live between Christ's first and second comings, kept by God's faithfulness and called to watchful, working faith.
BIBLE READINGS	1 Corinthians 1:3–9 and Mark 13:24–37
MEMORY VERSE	"God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

1 Open

Think of a hard time of waiting in your life. What helped you wait well?

2 Paul's thanksgiving

1 Corinthians 1:4–9 I always thank my God concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus; that in everything you were enriched in him, in all speech and all knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that you come behind in no gift; waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will also confirm you until the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

1. **This is the most troubled church in the New Testament: factions, scandal, lawsuits, chaos in worship. Why does Paul start with thanks?**

2. **Who is the subject of the main verbs in verses 8–9?**

3. **Paul calls them people "waiting for the revelation of our Lord." How does waiting for Christ correct a divided church?**

3 The doorkeeper

Mark 13:32–37 But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Watch, keep alert, and pray; for you don't know when the time is. "It is like a man, traveling to another country, having left his house, and given authority to his servants, and to each one his work, and also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch therefore, for you don't know when the lord of the house is coming, whether at evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he might find you sleeping. What I tell you, I tell all: Watch."

1. **What did the master give before leaving? What does that mean for the church today?**

2. **The doorkeeper's job is to watch. What does spiritual "sleep" look like for adults?**

3. **Jesus ends, “What I tell you, I tell all.” Why add that?**

4 Two catechisms, one hope

> “The kingdom of God comes indeed of itself, without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also.”
>
> Luther’s Small Catechism, Second Petition (1529) · Read it in the Reading Room

> “That in all my sorrows and persecutions, with uplifted head I look for the very same person, who before offered himself for my sake, to the tribunal of God, and has removed all curse from me, to come as judge from heaven.”
>
> Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 52 (1563) · Read it in the Reading Room

1. **Which phrase in these two answers do you most need this week?**

5 Pray

> “Stir up thy power, O Lord, and come.” … Maranatha: Come, Lord Jesus.

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