Living Looking Forward

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward... 2 Peter 3:13

1. When is he coming?

We can't know:

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2)

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (Matthew 24:42-44)

We can know:

You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. (Matthew 16:3)

"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. (Mark 13:28-29)

2. Mark 13

- The end of the temple
- Signs that are not about the end v 5-13...
- Signs of the end, v14...
- The end of the world
- Signs and predictions
- Waiting for the end

3. Other predictions of 'signs'

- Usually characteristic of the whole age
- Usually not spectacular but normal parts of life
- Usually part of a broader theological schema
- Cannot be used to construct a timetable of return

Typical features of predicting the end:

4. How we are to wait

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. (Mark 13:33)

Waiting as normal:

They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

Waiting patiently:

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (Romans 8:24-25)

Waiting expectantly:

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:13)

Waiting for the master:

5. Questions for reflection

- Is your tendency to expect Jesus' return or forget about it?
- Do you think of the Christian life as involving waiting?
- How do you find waiting (1) patiently, and (2) expectantly?
- What difference would waiting in these ways make to your life now?