

# THE PRESIDENT'S



# Circle

TRINITY COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

**“...He is near – even at the door!” Matthew 24:33 HCSB**

I could not escape the words above as I was reading through Matthew. As you may know the passage deals with the coming of the Son of Man. It presents clearly the Second Coming of Christ. Matthew 24 is filled with the signs of the ‘End of the Age.’ It is striking, accurate, and thought provoking. Theologians, preachers, and students of the Bible have labored over this passage seeking to unlock the truths, indicators, and events that will precede His arrival.

Make no mistake about it: He is Coming Again! Be Alert, Be Watchful, and Be Ready are admonitions sprinkled through the chapter. I have enjoyed the ‘preliminary indicators’ that indicate something is going to happen. (It is time for you re-read chapters 24 and 25 slowly!) Matthew 24:44 is a ‘biblical missile’ to be reckoned with’:

**“This is why you also must be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”**

However, as I thought and meditated on the words of Jesus, this is what caught my attention ... generally there will be no expectation or anticipation that He is coming! Jesus speaks parables on this very truth. Watch the wording of this verse:

“For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark. **They didn’t know** until the flood came and swept them all away. **So this is the way** the coming of the Son of Man will be.”

Matthew 24:38-39 HCSB

The expression to meditate upon is: “*They didn’t know.*” There was no realization or recognition that the flood was coming. They did what they always did! And then Jesus says: “So this is the way the coming of the Son of Man will be.”

Today’s activities, arguments, positions, plans, circumstances, schedules, events, and the like are capturing our attention, resources, and energies. We struggle through, wanting to achieve, gain, and win with no thought of “*What if it were today*” as one hymn writer wrote. Many, many are like Peter mentioned in his second letter:

**“... What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?** From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.” 2 Peter 3:4 NLT

There was no expectation or anticipation, no realization or recognition, and no attention or interest in the air. *Have we slipped into this same rut?* Have the routines and demands of life taken away the focus, alertness, and anticipation that Jesus really is coming again? Have we been ‘captured’ by culture, pundits, and experts? When He comes, will He find us working and looking forward to His Arrival? *I want to be counted in the ones who are ... How about you?*

Jesus said:

**“Therefore be alert,** because you don’t know either the day or the hour.”

Matthew 25:13 HCSB

And ponder this statement from our Lord:

***"I assure you: This generation will certainly not pass away*** until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."  
Matthew 24:34-35 HCSB

***Are we this generation?***

Let us be watching, working, and worshipping until He comes!

***The Latest Happenings:***

- Over forty prospective students were on campus October 27. Special events, times with professors, chapel, classes, and a Chick-fil-A lunch “under the tent” were all part of the activities



**Campus Preview** is an excellent opportunity to sense the “Trinity Experience.” Check out the videos on Trinity’s Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/trinitycollegefl](http://www.facebook.com/trinitycollegefl).

- The President’s Council met October 13. They were given a short tour of the new Residence Hall construction site.



- ✦ The Student Residence Hall will be finished by March 2018. Dedication is planned for the month of April 2018. **Watch for details!** Below are a few current pictures.



- ✦ Our students hosted a **“Trunk or Treat”** in the College’s parking lot for the community as an outreach.



### **Facts to know ...**

- The president has been speaking on 'attitude' in Chapel and Convocation. Attitude determines our disposition, demeanor, and destiny.
- The Board of Trustees will meet November 3, 2017. Issues from the progress of the College in educational offerings and finances will be reviewed.
- Our men's soccer team and the women's volleyball team have concluded their seasons. Both women's and men's basketball will begin soon.
- A proposal of marriage occurred during halftime at the soccer game with Toccoa Falls College. The good news is: she accepted! The sign read, "Answer Yes or Yes!"
- Thanksgiving Break for students will be November 20-24 for students and November 22-24 for staff.
- The faculty and staff Christmas dinner will be Tuesday, December 5, 2017.



### **Urgent Prayer Requests ...**

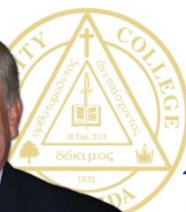
- **Pray for the complete financing of the Residence Hall.** Pray that this beautiful 90-student facility will be paid off in three years. Pray for the furnishings that will be needed in each room. All resident students will now be able to live on campus.
- **Pray for the monies** that will be needed for reorganization and restructuring of positions and responsibilities to provide more efficient operations for the students. Proposals have been made to prospective donors for assistance.
- **Pray for new marketing** on social media and various outlets of communication.
- **Pray for our Admissions teams** as they meet prospective students for the traditional and degree completion programs. Pray that they will be in the right place to say the right thing dealing with prospective students.
- **Pray for the Spiritual Development of every student. Pray for the spiritual health of every faculty and staff member. Pray that God's Favor, Flavor, and Fire** will be in their souls.

#### *Words to think about:*

"But whenever God sends a trial with one hand, He gives grace with the other. Thus trials become triumphs. Burdens become wings. Affliction, instead of being a bed of thorns and a pathway of nettles, becomes a quilt of roses. The very things which seem to break us are the things which really 'make us.'"

- Sidlow Baxter, "Awake My Heart"

Always His Best to You,



*Mark*  
MARK T. O'FARRELL  
PRESIDENT

