

*"So too, you also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."*

Advent has arrived, the "Coming" of Jesus is at hand. The day is already here and has not yet arrived when all nations shall stream toward the house of God. The paradox of "already, but not yet" is one of the most important paradoxes for us Christians: it is a reminder of our call to deepen our participation right now in the in-breaking of the kingdom of God, though it will not reach its full expression until some unknown time.

This season, I find myself especially focused on the world we are co-creating for those who come after us. My baseline functioning is quite future-focused, looking forward to the meal I am going to cook this evening, my plans for the weekend, a trip during my next school break, or what is coming next year and beyond. Yet, in the growing changes of pregnancy that my spouse, Loren, is currently undergoing, I now see an ever-present reminder of the "already, but not yet-ness" of life.

Suddenly, I am hyper-aware that every choice we make today carries with it the "nowness" of our future life. With every parenting book I purchase and read, in every craving or aversion-responsive meal I make, I am living out the preparation for the baby's "Coming," while continuously co-creating the very world in which that baby is already living and growing. In every meal, every touch, every word I am awakened anew to the truth that every day we are given is as real as life will ever get. As inconceivable as it may often feel, perhaps death and life are just as interrelated as now and then, today and tomorrow.

Already, and not yet.

- David Gaillardetz