

READY TO LEAVE!

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Being ready to leave when Jesus returns means worshipping Him by giving Him all the glory concerning everything we say, do, and decide. We are told that God Acts 17:25 “*Giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.*”

After reading 65 Books, welcome to Revelation 14:6 “*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,*” 7 “*Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*”

We are living in the days just *before the end*—so the question is: What attitudes should we have toward people; What decisions should we be making; and How should we be conducting our life—knowing Jesus is returning Matthew 24:44 “*Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*”

Are we ready to leave? Is our trust in God what it should be? Jesus informs Luke 12:35 “*Let your loins be girded about, [Be dressed for service and well prepared], and your lights burning;*” 36 “*And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.*”

It is like being ready to go somewhere—we should be ready to open our door for the Master. It means living His Truth every day and meeting all situations in *His* way. It means we are trusting God for a right attitude toward *everyone*, and we are treating *others* as *we* want them to treat *us*. Luke 12:43 “*Blessed is that servant whom his Master when He comes shall find so doing.*”

To keep *lights burning* meant having sufficient oil for lamps. Today it is having fresh batteries for a flashlight or a charger for our cell-phone. It means being mobile; prepared; alert; and ready to leave. *That* is how Jesus wants our attitude to be—every day and all day!

When an important call comes in, we do not want our phone to be red-lining—we need to be ready with a full charge. How much more important *is* it then, that since the arrival of Jesus could be any *second*, we should be *ready to leave* with Him!

Luke 12:37 “*Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.*”

Considering the news today, we could have a *Bible* in one hand, and an *iPad* in the other—and seeing Bible prophecy fulfilled before our eyes. The Middle East is like a powder keg with a short fuse—ready to blow up in a moment! Many things are happening that describe the End Times—like earthquakes, rampant crime, the horrible acts of violence toward Israel, and in many other places around the globe.

When going on vacation we pack our luggage the day before—we want to have everything ready when it’s time to leave. *That* is the thought behind *gird up your loins and have your lamps burning*—be ready to go out the door when Jesus returns!

To be ready in the twinkling of an eye, is to be spending our time and interest with things that

we would not be ashamed of if Jesus were to knock on the door. We should ask ourselves such questions—*This event I’m going to attend; This book I’m reading; The music I listen to; or The activity I’m involved with*—*Would I be ashamed if Jesus came back—suddenly?*

If the answer is *Yes*, or even *Well, maybe*—then we should *change* our plans without wasting time. If we could *not* ask for God’s blessing on the plans we have for that evening, then our plans *need* to be *changed*. If we could not ask Jesus to join us during a planned musical event—we need to find another concert to attend.

If we really *believed* that Jesus is coming back suddenly and that He will return at a time when we do *not* expect Him—then we would really make some big changes in our entertainment choices; our leisure-time activities; the friends we select; the music we listen to, and our way of talking in general.

1 John 3:2 “*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him*”—that is our focus—that is our choice—it *is* the attitude we must *choose* to maintain. The question: Is our attitude like the *Lord* or like the *world*?—“*For we shall see him as he is.*” 3 “*And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure.*”

We should not only *be ready*, but we should be *waiting* for, and *looking* for, His return. Luke 12:36 “*And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.*”

To be *anxiously awaiting* Jesus is to be *as anxious* in treating our family and friends as Jesus would treat them. Luke 6:31 “*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.*”

If we are expecting some out-of-town relatives we have not seen for a long time, then we will be

looking out the window when they are about 10 minutes from our home. As they walk up the steps, we open the door and meet them with hand-shakes and hugs—we are so happy to see their faces, hear their voices, and be with them again.

It is to be *that* way while waiting for *Jesus* to return—not being fearful or dreading His return due to *not being ready* or *not having* a right attitude about something, but instead we are to be looking forward to His arrival with great anticipation—being ready to meet and greet Him—that is the idea of these verses. Luke 12:43 “Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.”

We will be *blessed* by the *Lord* if we are living His *Truth*—not just *talking* about faith in Him—but really *living by faith* in Him and *trusting on* His atoning sacrifice to forgive our sins, heal our afflictions, and change our attitudes! It is to *walk the talk* every day!

The apostle says James 2:20 “But wilt thou know, O vain [futile; unproductive; fruitless] man, that faith without works is dead?” If *watching* for Jesus is the *evidence* of faith in Him, then *obeying* His commands is the evidence of *acting* faith in Him.

Watching, waiting, and looking for the Lord’s return compels us to ask God to *prepare* us every day—by using every opportunity to meet things that will *test* our faith—enabling us to respond in *godly* ways by having His Holy Spirit within to help us respond correctly.

Doing that by depending on Him for success, enables us to talk, act, and treat others in a way that would be a scriptural example. It is *walking the talk* and *living the Truth*—it is being Ready to Leave in a split-second! We are *blessed* if we live this way, and we are *joyful* if we walk in faith this way!

In contrast to the believer who is *watching* and *ready* to go with the Master, is the *unprepared* servant who was *not* watching; *not* ready; and *thoroughly surprised* by the Lord’s sudden appearance. He was *not* ready to leave and was taken by complete surprise!

Luke 12:43 “Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. 45 **But** if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk.”

Such a person is *not* living God’s Truth; they have *trespassed* onto forbidden territory; they have taken the attitude of the world; and they have *swerved* from the straight and narrow path that leads to the Kingdom. They have allowed the *devil* to discourage them, to make them *weary* of doing the right thing—which is trusting God every day for a positive outlook. Galatians 6:9 “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

Satan will constantly tempt us to be *discouraged*; *depressed*; and *dejected* in whatever way he can—but we are to *reject* negative thoughts because we *know* they are from the devil, who is the destroyer of souls.

If Satan influences us to *ignore* spiritual concerns and right attitudes—like the man Luk e 12:45 “My master is delaying his coming,” then the next verse applies: 46 “The master of that servant will come on a day when he is **not** looking for him, and at an hour when he is **not** aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.”

That is a *very* serious result and an even *worse* eternal fate—all because he was **not** ready to go; because he was **not** watching; and because he *allowed* the devil to move him away from the

narrow path of trusting faith on God to *change* his attitude.

Instead of allowing *that*, we must allow *God* to *prepare* us for His Son’s surprise return. It’s not just *saying* we are a believer, but actually *believing* and *doing* the will of the Father—*listening* to His instructions and *depending* on His Holy Spirit to empower us to *power through* each day by faith in Him.

It is meeting things and people according to His Word—and it *is* possible to do that because *all* our sins, mistakes, and failures—things that *could* hinder us from doing right or being justified are now *out* of the way.

Specific instructions on how we should *be living* in the moment Romans 13:11 “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”

It’s a conscious decision to walk in the spiritual light God has given. Romans 13:13 “Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness [lewdness and lust], not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

Ready to Leave with the Master in a second—let us *not miss* that greatest of all events!



www.fcgchurch.org

*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

fcgchurch1@gmail.com

#3079 1022 23P