

Watch Ye and Pray Always!



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VIRTUAL

When Jesus warns, we take it seriously—
Luke 21:36 “*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*” Watching and praying enables us to be counted worthy for His kingdom.

There will be a continuous falling away from faith and trust on God as the return of Christ comes ever nearer. True believers in the Lord Jesus for real life issues, will be as *few today* as the few who trusted God in *Noah’s day*.

The dreadful and appalling *spiritual* and *moral* condition of the world today, is a definite sign that Jesus is at the very door. We must keep in mind, it is not *outward* religious *appearance* and *verbal statements* of faith that count, but the *inward spiritual condition* of our *heart*—that is what matters—and *that* is what enables us to “*Stand before the Son of man!*”

We must watch and pray always—and be living the full Gospel message of the Bible—which includes the salvation of spirit, soul, and body. Every aspect of our life must be subject to, and in harmony with God’s will—spiritually, physically, financially, in our home, at work, with friends, and regarding everything else.

Millions of religious messages are heard and accepted today—but many of them are deceptive because they do not include teaching on actually

trusting God on the merit of the Blood of Christ—not only for the *forgiveness* of sin, but for protection, money issues, justice, health, healing, and everything else. God has promised all those things to anyone who will *believe* and *trust* on His Atonement sacrifice.

Death does *not* deliver us from sin because the passing of our *physical body* does not change our *rebellious heart*—that change can only happen in *this* life. A person who *dies* in their sins, is just as much a sinner *after* their death as *before*. What the spiritual condition of our heart *is* when Christ returns, determines if we are ready to meet Him. Jesus did not come to save us *in our sin*; but He came to free us *from our sins*—when we trust in faith on the Blood He shed.

Revelation 8:7-8 “*The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood.*”

Supernatural judgments are unleashed on a *wicked* and *unbelieving* world, but our concern is our *preparation* to *escape* them. 2 Peter 3:10-12 “*The day of the Lord will come like a thief—it will be a day on which the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, the elements be destroyed in the fierce heat, and the earth and all the works of man be utterly burnt up.*

“*Since all these things are thus pre-destined to dissolution [conclusion], what sort of men ought you to be found to be in all holy living and godly conduct, eagerly looking forward to the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens, all ablaze, will be destroyed, and the elements will melt in the fierce heat?*”

Fire destroys the earth this time—that is why the spiritual *preparation* of our heart, to meet

Jesus in a right spiritual *condition* here on earth, is our main and only concern every day. 2 Corinthians 4:18 “*For the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*”

Everything of this world is left behind—and only *God* knows our heart, so we must allow *Him* to *change* us and *prepare* us. 2 Peter 3:14 “*Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent [earnestly seek] that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*” We are to *know* and be willing to *do* the will of God—to be at *peace* with everyone when He returns.

Warnings are given 2 Peter 3:17-18 “*Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*”

Knowing *how* to trust God in *faith* is the issue. Hebrews 12:5-7 “*My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*”

It can *seem* that we are chastened and disciplined often, but *that* is what makes us *worthy to escape* what is coming. It may *also* seem that many who just *talk* of faith, but who follow the world, do *not* receive any rebuke for it—yet if a true *believer* does the least thing outside of God’s will, they receive a sharp reprimand to wake them spiritually—we *know* that it *is* for our spiritual benefit.

There have *always* been people who *say* they are believers, yet *rebel* against Bible teaching and example. In the Bible, when God was working

with His chosen people, the earth opened and swallowed those who rebelled against Him and caused divisions. Numbers 16:34 *“All Israel who were around them [Dathan and Abhiram] fled at their cry, for they said, ‘Lest the earth swallow us up also!’”*

Such serious *judgment* is evidence of a *dreadful spiritual condition*. Hebrews 12:9 *“Since we respect our earthly fathers who disciplined us, should we not all the more cheerfully submit to the discipline of our heavenly Father and live forever!”* We are being *prepared* by being *watchful!* Hebrews 12:11 *“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”*

All of God’s dealing with us is for our spiritual *good*—to give us *His peace* and *His righteousness*—so we will be without a blemish and ready to meet the Lord. We should *not* be *discouraged* but be *encouraged*—*Persistently striving* Hebrews 12:14 *“for peace with all men, and for that growth in holiness apart from which no one will see the Lord.”*

It is a *growth in faith* and a *continuing trust* on God—based on the merit of the Blood of Christ—it is going from *purity* to *maturity* in learning how to depend on God for everything in life. That is the *only* way to be ready for the return of the Savior.

We must see *spiritual fruit of faith* in God, and to see our *attitudes* change for the better. 1 Peter 1:6-7 *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

Every *test* reveals some *need* to have us prepared—something that should be *corrected*;

some spiritual *lesson* to learn; or some *change* in attitude toward someone. When we meet these trials as God says to meet them, and we overcome in faith, we are ready to meet Jesus.

Our *words* do *not* signify we are ready, but our *actions* that *follow* our words are a clear indicator of our heart. James 1:12 *“Blessed is the man who perseveres under [patiently endures through] trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”*

If we meet trials and tests scripturally—by trusting on the shed Blood of Christ—we are ready to stand before Jesus. Matthew 5:20 *“Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”* That is not *taught* in churches today. Many who *profess* faith in Christ, think that being a church member and living a moral life makes them ready—but it doesn’t.

Luke 21:33 *“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away”*—then He warns 34-36 *“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [indulgence; excess; decadence], and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”*

Every part of our life—spiritually, physically, financially, and every other area must be in sync with God’s will and Word. Pagans run after things of *no* value, but Jesus said to seek what is *most* valuable—the kingdom of God.

Luke 12:32-34 *“Dismiss your fears, little flock: your Father finds a pleasure in giving you the Kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms.*

Provide yourselves with purses that will never wear out, a treasure inexhaustible in Heaven, where no thief can come nor moth consume. For where your wealth is stored, there also will your heart be.”

Our lamp of faith must be kept burning. It is like waiting for the arrival of someone important; and being watchful so we can open the door for them. Luke 12:40 *“Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.”*

Being *watchful* and in *readiness* is our only concern. We will *not* have a second chance, so we must not *hesitate* a moment in allowing God to teach us what we need to know. By watchfulness and prayer and faith, we will escape God’s wrath. We must be ready to drop *everything* at the blink of an eye.

Luke 17:28 *“It was the same in the days of Lot;”* people going about their lives—29-30 *“But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.”*

We must *not* be too attached or too involved with things of this world—we must be able to say that Jesus Christ is truly Lord and Master of our life—that is being watchful and ready. Luke 17:31-32 *“No one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife!”*

She *disobeyed* God’s instructions, looked *back*, and *forfeited* her soul forever! Luke 17:33 *“Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life—[gives up rebellious and resentful attitudes]—will preserve it”*—for an *eternity!* That is *watching* and *praying!*



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