

BE READY!

Based on the command of Christ #41 – “Await my return”

Mark 13:33-37

33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.

34 It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.

37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

Matthew 24:42-44

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

43 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.

44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

I. Beware of Distractions

Isaiah 26:3 says you will have perfect peace if you keep your mind focused on Christ.

Matthew 24:5-8

5 For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.

6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

II. A Principle To Live By

III. Spiritual Results of Expecting Him

1. A Purifying Hope

I John 3:2-3

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

I Thess.5:22 says, "*Abstain from all appearance of evil.*"

2. A Redeeming Of Time

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

16 making the most of every opportunity (KJV-Redeeming the time), because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Colossians 4:5 - Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

Colossians 4:5 (KJV) - "Walk in wisdom toward men that are without, redeeming the time."

James 4:14 - Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Luke 12:37 - It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

3. A Persuasion Of Others

II Corinthians 5:11 - Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

KJV – Terror of the Lord

II Peter 3:3-5

3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water.

IV. Focus on the Finish!