

Are You Watching ?

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 1 Thessalonians 5:6

This Bible study was written for two reasons: 1) Because of a conversation I had with a brother a few years ago about the study of prophecy, and 2) An article we read recently on Rapture Ready.com, called “Haven’t We Waited Long Enough?” written by Jan Markell of OLIVE TREE MINISTRIES.

First of all, we love prophecy and have studied it since 1980. When I tried to talk about prophecy to this brother I had just recently met, he was indifferent. The study of prophecy always gets me excited when I think about Jesus coming back to take us home to be with Him in the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). When I approached him about his lack of interest in Bible prophecy, his response was “I’m living for the Lord so I don’t have to watch.” His remark was in direct defiance and disobedience to Jesus’ command in Mark 13:37, “*and what I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH.*” In fact, we are told by the Lord to “watch” 4 different times in verses 32-37. Since then, we have come across an increasing number of professing Christians who seem to have absolutely no interest at all in Bible prophecy. In fact, they actually get a little perturbed when the subject comes up, and they try to change the subject.

Back in 2014, I lost the closest person in the world to me due to cancer. The only thing that kept me going back then was studying prophecy, watching the signs, and hoping that Jesus was coming back to take me out of here so as to end the grief and pain that I was feeling. And when Jesus didn’t come back in 2014, I never stopped watching and hoping for His return. That should be the attitude of all Christians.

Secondly, the article previously mentioned above was very disturbing and needed to be commented on. The article in question had to do with the fact that more and more professing Christians are becoming indifferent to the rapture because they have waited so long for it to come. It was referred to in the article as: end time weariness, Rapture fatigue, and Israel burnout. The fact that the King is coming is boring and just old news to them. What Hal Lindsey wrote in his 1969 Classic “The Late – Great Planet Earth” in the eyes of most, did not come to pass. Thus, there is a collective so-what sigh. We’ve waited long enough. If He comes, He comes. We have to go about our daily business. The professing church now says “We’ve been through all of this before” and they have lost their apocalyptic fervor. We guess they never read 2 Thessalonians 3:5, which says “*And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*” (The Rapture!).

The problem with this attitude is that if we don’t watch, then we can’t warn (Acts 20:31). And if we don’t warn, then who will? And not only that, the blood will be on our hands because we saw the signs converging and the danger coming, not only to America, but to the whole world, and we didn’t warn the people. That makes us guilty in God’s eyes (Ezekiel 33:1-6).

If you read the following scriptures, you will see that we are repeatedly told to watch, and by watching, we will be able to warn of God’s coming judgment on this planet. In fact, the Christian who does watch and warn is blessed, according to the word of God.

Proverbs 8:34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

Matthew 24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Luke 12:37-40 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. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

1Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit (act) you like men, be strong.

2Corinthians 6:4-5 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

2Corinthians 11:26-27 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own

countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

2Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

1Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Jesus Christ is returning soon! Sooner than anyone thinks! In fact, it could even happen today! No one knows for sure (1 Thessalonians 5:2). His return to take home His true church (John 14:2-3) is the next event on God's prophetic calendar. Unfortunately, only a tiny remnant who will never grow weary of keeping their eyes on the sky will get excited about this. They have never ceased to watch the prophetic signs mentioned by the Lord in Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 17 and 21 as they were being fulfilled.

The great falling away from the Word of God has already happened (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 2 Timothy 4:3-4). There is nothing left from hindering the rapture of the church. This is also called the Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13). 1John 3:2-3 states *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; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

And for those of you who are reading this study and have not yet committed your lives to Jesus, and made Him Lord and Saviour of your life, we implore you to do so TODAY while there is still time (2 Corinthians 6:2). The consequences of not committing your eternal soul to Jesus, who suffered and died horribly on the cross (Psalm 22, Isaiah 50:6, 52:14) to pay the price for all of your sins is too unfathomable to comprehend. When Jesus said to "repent or perish" (Luke 13:3, 5), He wasn't kidding. He never does! Salvation or damnation are both eternal – it's your choice. So choose life and live, for God is not willing that any perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9b).

The great tribulation is coming (Matthew 24:21), a time never seen before, or will ever be seen again. The death and destruction will go way beyond a human beings comprehension and understanding and the only way to escape it will be to get saved NOW. "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." (Luke 21:36)

AMEN