

(Matt. 24:36) – *“BUT OF THAT DAY AND HOUR KNOWETH NO MAN, NO, NOT THE ANGELS OF HEAVEN, BUT MY FATHER ONLY.”* Mark adds “neither the Son” (Mark 13:32). The Lord spoke within the limitations of His sinless humanity as He subjected Himself to these limitations for the redemption of His people. Christ is God manifest in the flesh and has all attributes of deity as well as all qualities of human nature without sin. Sometimes He speaks of Himself as a man and sometimes of Himself as God to show that He is fully both God and man. Sometimes He is revealed in the power of His deity (ex. John 8:56-58; 11:25-26,43-44; 17:5). Sometimes He is revealed in the infirmities of human nature without sin (ex. Luke 2:40; 4:2; 22:42-44; John 11:35). These are sinless infirmities (Heb. 4:15), but necessary for Him to be the Savior of His people (Heb. 2:14-17). Even though His and the Father’s will is the same, He claimed not to do His own will but the will of His Father (John 6:38). In this capacity He subjected Himself to the limitations of the human mind. As God He knew all things, but as sinless man He had to learn some things (Luke 2:52).

(Matt. 24:37-39; cf. Luke 17:26-30) – The *“DAYS OF NOAH”* were evil (Gen. 6:5-6). Since the fall, the world has been engulfed in wickedness, unbelief, and idolatry. While this includes what the world recognizes as immorality, it is also marked by false religion and false Christianity. Christ emphasizes the extreme preoccupation that people give to everyday life and ignore that Judgment is coming. People are so enamored with life on earth that they either ignore or deny the coming Judgment. They are consumed with these things and neglect God’s truth and salvation. So, life goes on as usual, and there is no fear of the living and true God (Rom. 3:10-18). The attention that unregenerate people do pay to eternal matters is the product of self-righteous, works religion that settles them into a false refuge of religious experience, profession, and works that feeds their pride and gives them false hope. This is why men by nature hate the true Gospel as it exposes their works to be evil and their hopes to be false (John 3:19-20).

(Matt. 24:40-41) – This will be no secret rapture. It will be the very public and open second coming where the Lord will gather His people unto Himself (1 Thess. 4:16-17; 2 Thess. 2:1). Those who *“SHALL BE TAKEN”* are God’s people whom He chose in Christ, justified by His grace based on the righteousness of Christ imputed, regenerated and called by the Spirit unto faith in Christ and repentance of dead works. They will be glorified with Him! The ones who are *“LEFT”* behind are the unbelievers who will perish in their sins because they are not found in Christ (washed in His blood and clothed in His righteousness). They are under God’s judgment and wrath because they have no substitute or mediator (John 3:36).

(Matt. 24:42-45) – *“THE GOODMAN OF THE HOUSE”* is the head of a household who is responsible for the care and safety of the family. If he knows when a thief is coming to break in, he would stop the thief. This is not portraying Christ as a thief, but it is in line with the statement that when Christ returns, He will come “as a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:2), meaning suddenly and without warning. But even though none of us know the hour of His coming, believers have a different perspective – *“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief”* (1 Thess. 5:4). Therefore, be watchful.

Believers are to *“WATCH,”* look for and expect the Lord’s return. Even though we do not know the hour or day, we can watch for the signs of His return which could be at any time. We are to seek and find the Lord in the true Gospel by God-given faith, *“looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith”* (Heb. 12:2). Consider – *“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame”* (Rev. 16:15). What is our “garments”? It is Christ’s righteousness imputed and all the “garments of salvation” (Isa. 61:10) in Christ. For those who claim to be Christians, it also means to examine ourselves whether we be in the faith, seeking assurance, not in ourselves or by our works, but by looking to Christ our Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, and Advocate (1 John 2:1-2). This is assurance that only God gives by His grace in His Word (2 Cor. 13:5).

Be *“READY”* means to be prepared for Christ’s second coming and for final judgment. The only way sinners can be prepared for this is to be submitted to Christ as our only righteousness before God (Rom. 9:30—10:4; 2 Cor. 5). Seeking righteousness by our own works will never make us ready and prepared to meet the Lord in judgment. It is by the blood of Jesus Christ alone that our sins are washed away and forgiven. It is by His righteousness imputed alone that we are justified before God and from which we receive the gift of spiritual and eternal life (Php. 3:7-9).

“FAITHFUL AND WISE” means to be a bondservant of Christ, serving Him out of love, grace, and gratitude. It means to persevere in the faith by the grace, power, and truth of God revealed in the glorious Person and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. God saves and preserves His children by His grace based on the imputed righteousness of Christ. He sends His Holy Spirit to give them life, make them wise unto salvation in Christ, and bring them to a life of faith, repentance, and obedience marked by the struggle between the flesh and the Spirit Who resides within all true believers (Gal. 5:13-26). Those who are faithful and wise servants are given the authority of the King of kings to be *“RULERS”* in the sense of being ambassadors of Christ and having the responsibility of providing for the safety and care of their families. This describes ministers of the Gospel who have been called and equipped by God to be overseers of the church here on earth until Christ returns. All true ministers are to guide God’s people by the Word of God, which is *“MEAT IN DUE SEASON”* – the meat of the Gospel and the whole Word of God.