

## Watching

When we think about “watching”, our thoughts generally go to “watching” for the Second Coming of Christ. However, we often miss other aspects of “watching” that have to do with being watchful in many other areas.

The word “watchful” is defined as watching closely, being vigilant. Vigilant implies an active, keen watchfulness. Luke 12:37 expresses this type of watching: “Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake and alert and watching when he comes.

What does it mean to be watching or watchful? Watching will help us to be alert and attentive: I Thessalonians 5:6 says “...let us not sleep, as the rest do, but let us keep wide awake (alert, watchful, cautious, and on our guard)...” Watching will keep us from being careless. Matthew 26:40-41 says “Are you so utterly unable to stay awake and keep watch with Me for one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.”

Watching will keep us from being deceived. Matthew 24:4 says “Jesus answered them. Be careful that no one misleads you (deceiving you and leading into error).”

Watching also involves being knowledgeable of what God is doing in these days. There is a world-wide proclamation of the Gospel. Christianity is growing at the rate of 7% a year. This is triple the rate of the world population growth and triple the growth of Hinduism and Buddhism. There is an unprecedented outreach to the unreached people groups throughout the world.

We also need to be watchful about the works of the enemy. Satan is clearly at work with the goal of causing the breakdown of individuals, families, communities and nations. We who know Christ need to stand, clothed in the armor as Ephesians 6:13-14a admonishes us, “Therefore put on God’s complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day (of danger), and having done all (the crisis demands), to stand (firmly in your place). Stand therefore...”. In addition, obeying verse 18 “Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all (manner of) prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding on behalf of all the saints (God’s consecrated people).

Above all, we must be continually watchful for the return of the Lord. Matthew 24:42 says “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour our Lord is coming”. Verse 44 says “Therefore we also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The final thing we need to be aware of is the call of God in these days. He is calling us to a greater intimacy with Him. He is burning out the impurities in our lives that we might be that Bride (the Church) that is “without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing.” Ephesians 5:27.

Do you sense the urgency of the days we live in? Are you watching yourself? Are you preoccupied, distracted, open to deception? Are your eyes on the Lord? Do you long for His return?

Again, Matthew 24:44 says “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”