

# The Kingdom of God

## Watch

### Mark 13.28-37

As we draw nearer to the end of times and the rapture of the Church, what are we as Christians to do? Our Lord says it clearly and loudly in our text, we are to watch.

**Mark 13:33** *Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*

**Mark 13:34** *For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.*

**Mark 13:35** *Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:*

**Mark 13:37** *And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*

Clearly the recurring theme of our text is that we should watch and by watching we should be found prepared and ready for the arrival of our Lord.

**A. The Signs of the Times (vs 28-30)** – *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: <sup>29</sup> So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. <sup>30</sup> Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.* – The question before us in these verses is, are you able to discern the times we live in? Are you able to see and understand the signs of the times? Are you able to see that we are closer now than ever before to the day of our Lord's coming and the Rapture of the Church? The Bible records,

Matt 16

**Matthew 16:1-4** <sup>1</sup> *The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup> He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. <sup>3</sup> And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? <sup>4</sup> A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.*

The Pharisees and Sadducees missed the Messiah because they could not discern the signs of the times? Are we as hard hearted and spiritually blind as they? Are you able to discern the signs of the times? What are the signs of the times?

**Matthew 24:32-42** <sup>32</sup> Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: <sup>33</sup> So likewise ye, **when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.** <sup>34</sup> Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. <sup>36</sup> But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. <sup>37</sup> **But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.** <sup>38</sup> **For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,** <sup>39</sup> **And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.** <sup>40</sup> Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. <sup>42</sup> Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

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A. The Signs of the Times

What were people doing when Noah's flood destroyed the world?

**Genesis 6:5-7** <sup>5</sup> And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, **and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** <sup>6</sup> And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

**Are people today as they were in Noah's Day?**

**Matthew 24:37** But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

**The Signs of our Times,**

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** <sup>1</sup> This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. <sup>2</sup> For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those

that are good, <sup>4</sup> Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; <sup>5</sup> Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Are we able to recognize the signs of our times?  
Are they the signs that point to the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Rapture of the Church? I believe they are and I am determined to be watching and ready.

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A. The Signs of the Times

**B. The Significance of Tenacity (vs 31-35) – Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.** <sup>32</sup> *But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.* <sup>33</sup> **Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.** <sup>34</sup> **For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.** <sup>35</sup> *Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:* - Notice in our text God's Kingdom plan for this Church age. Our Lord has placed His kingdom into our hands and has given us authority and work to do, and we **Must** be about that work. We must be faithful and wise stewards doing what our Lord has asked us to do.

### So what has he asked us to do?

**1. We must Cleave to His Word (vs 31; 1 Pet 2.2; cf. Matt 24.35; 2 Pet 3.6; Rev 3.3,9-10) – Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. – What is our Lord saying? Our Lord is telling us that the closer we get to His coming the more we must cleave to and love His never changing written Word.**

1 Pet 2

- Our Lord warned us that there would come those who would wrest or twist His Word (2 Pet 3.16).
- He called for the Church in Sardis to hold fast to those things they had heard and received; which is the Word of God (Rev 3.3).
- Our Lord told the Church in Philadelphia to mark those liars and to keep the Word of His patience (Rev 3.9-10)

Our Lord tells us,

*1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

Our text reminds us,

*Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

The Word of God is still the Word of God today. Born Again Christians must hunger and thirst for the Word of God. We must cherish it, read it, memorize it, and live by it.

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- A. The Signs of the Times**
- B. The Significance of Tenacity**
  - 1. We Must Cleave To His Word
  - 2.

**2. We must Continue in His Work (vs 34; Matt 24.44-51) – For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, **and to every man his work**, . . . – This is to be a faithful and wise servant.**

Matt 24.44

*Matthew 24:44-51* <sup>44</sup> **Therefore be ye also ready:** for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. <sup>45</sup> **Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?** <sup>46</sup> **Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.** <sup>47</sup> Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

**There are blessings and great regard promised to those who worked for our Lord with tenacity until He returned.**

**Here are good reasons to be faithful in,**

- **Your Church attendance and service (vs 46)**
- **Your Tithes and Offerings (vs 46)**
- **Your prayers and God-and-I time (vs 46)**
- **Your Sacrificial Service in our Lord's Kingdom (vs 46)**

**What happens if our service falters?**

<sup>48</sup> **But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;** <sup>49</sup> **And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;** <sup>50</sup> **The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,** <sup>51</sup> **And shall**

***cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***

Do you think that if your tenacity has foundered that you will not regret it when our Lord returns one day soon? When you stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ you will be one of those who suffers loss and humiliation. Who are these?

**These are those who,**

- Have faltered in their Church attendance

*Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

- Have excused away their tithes and offerings
- Have stopped reading and cherishing the Word of God, and bought into the worlds twisted replicas of God's Holy book.
- Have stopped sacrificially serving our Lord through His kingdom work and His Church.

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- A. The Signs of the Times**  
**B. The Significance of Tenacity**
1. We Must Cleave To His Word
  2. We Must Continue In His Work

What must you do if you have faltered in your God given stewardship? You must repent and overcome by getting back into the battle for the souls of men and the spiritual Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Matthew 24:46-47* <sup>46</sup> Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. <sup>47</sup> Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

- 3. We must Contend as His Watchman (vs 34; Ezek 3.17-21) – For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, **and commanded the porter to watch.****

Ezek 3.17

**What does our Lord say about the watchman?**

*Ezekiel 3:17-21* <sup>17</sup> Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: **therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.** <sup>18</sup> When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die;

*and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.* <sup>19</sup> **Yet if thou warn the wicked,** and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. <sup>20</sup> Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: **because thou hast not given him warning,** he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. <sup>21</sup> **Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man,** that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

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- A. The Signs of the Times**
- B. The Significance of Tenacity**
  1. We Must Cleave To His Word
  2. We Must Continue In His Work
  3. We Must Contend as His Watchman

If you are a born again Christian then you are the porter and you are commanded to watch. Now, are you watching and heralding for our Lord? Are you preaching and teaching the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ? Are you praying for the lost and wayward all around you? Are you warning the wayward concerning their hazardous way? Are you contending for the Faith and fighting the fight of faith? Are you encouraging the saints to stand for Christ in these trying times?

**C. The Stirring of Transcendancy (vs 36-37) – Lest **coming suddenly he find you** sleeping.** <sup>37</sup> *And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.* – There is something coming imminently upon you that is far greater than anything this natural or mortal world can comprehend. When our Lord Jesus Christ descends into the clouds, and the voice of the arch angel cries out, and the trump of God sounds out; then in the twinkling of an eye all of the redeemed will be changed and stand face to face with our Lord Jesus Christ. That my friends is an absolutely transcendent event; it is far greater than anyone could possibly anticipate.

The question you must answer right now, as you consider that absolutely overwhelming event is, How will you fair on that occasion? Are you willing to continue on as you have been living your life, in view of this imminent event? Are there some things that you need to get right as a born again child of God? This is the place, and this is the time to get those things right.

**The Great Tribulation Period** – If you are here as a lost soul, someone who has failed to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, or someone who has been toying around with God. Are you willing to stake your eternal soul on your refusal to get your life right with God? Are you willing to face the Great Tribulation Period and its destruction and death rather than turn in repentance to the Lord Jesus Christ? That is the decision you make when you choose to refuse to receive the Lord Jesus Christ and turn away from the love and salvation Almighty God offers you.

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