

Let Us Watch and Be Ready

(Matthew 24:42-44)

Introduction:

1. At that last great day, 3 special events will take place, including "the return of Christ," "the resurrection," and "the judgment."
2. This morning we showed from Matthew 24:36-51 that "the Lord wants us to watch and be ready."
3. This evening we are making a more personal approach -- "let us watch and be ready" [we are concentrating on instructions that are designed to help us be prepared for these great events when they occur].

Discussion:

- I. INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST
 - A. We are to watch and we are to be ready for it (Matthew 24:42, 44; 25:13).
 - B. To be ready, we must:
 1. obey the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)
 2. live right (Titus 2:11-13; 2 Peter 3:10-14).
 - C. Some specific instructions for Christians are given in 1 Thessalonians 5:15-23.
- II. INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE RESURRECTION
 - A. We are to abound in the Lord's work (1 Corinthians 15:58).
 - B. We are to forget those things that are behind and reach forth unto those things that are before us (Philippians 3:8-16).
- III. INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE JUDGMENT
 - A. We are to use our talents (Matthew 25:14-30).
 - B. We are to assist the needy (Matthew 25:31-46).
 - C. We are to be faithful (Revelation 2:10).
 - D. We are to persuade others (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).

Conclusion:

1. "The Lord wants us to watch and be ready."
2. As we watch, let us heed the Lord's instructions so we can be ready.