

## TEXT

Revelation 3:1-3

## REVIEW

Our Lord Jesus speaks to us, His congregation, figuratively, when He says

- the congregation is dead

- be watchful; be awake; wake up

- strengthen the things which remain (alive) but are ready to die

Then He explains what that means in plain language, when He says, “Remember what you have received and heard.” What things?

- Jesus Christ was crucified; He died; He was buried; He is risen again

- Repent and be baptized in His name for remission or forgiveness of sins

- Believe in Jesus Christ and be saved to eternal life

- God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- Love one another

Our Lord Jesus tells His congregation to repent of neglecting and forgetting those things they had received and heard, to remember them, and to hold fast to those things, to keep them, to guard them.

Always when our Lord preaches repentance, there is the promise of forgiveness for those who repent.

But what of those who do not repent?

## BODY

Rev 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.

We’re going to look at this theme in the New Testament, of our Lord Jesus coming like a thief.

- let the unrepentant fear and repent

- let the repentant be renewed and strengthened in confidence hope

**Our Lord Jesus introduced the theme of His coming like a thief in His Olivet Discourse, the week when He was crucified.**

Mat 24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

(43) 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. (44) Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

v. 43 our Lord uses the figure of a thief coming

v. 43 He warns of a person being like someone whose house has been broken into

v. 42 He tells us to watch

v. 44 He tells us to be ready

but we don't know from this passage what the figure of watching represents, and we don't know what He means by our being ready

Note here on Bible interpretation: This is common in the New Testament

-our Lord Jesus speaks on something in figurative language

-preachers and others expound His words according to their own imaginations

-but the apostles took up our Lord's sayings and explained them

-so preachers and others should expound our Lord's words according to the apostolic interpretation

**Paul and Peter took up this theme in their letters.**

## PAUL

1Th 5:1-9 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. (2) For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. (3) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (4) But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. (5) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. (6) Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (7) For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. (8) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (9) For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

v. 3 for the unrepentant: destruction

v. 4 for the true Christian, the coming of Jesus is not like a thief

v. 6 the same figure our Lord Jesus used - let us not sleep...but let us watch

v. 8 deeper into the figure - breastplate...helmet

v. 8 plain language - ...faith and love...hope of salvation

-see how this accords with what we discovered Jesus must have meant by  
“the things you have received and heard”

## PETER

2Pe 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

(11) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, (12) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (13)

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

v. 10 for the unrepentant: a great burning up

two terms to summarize everything

-holy conversation or conduct

-godliness

if we live in repentance and obedience, and worship Him in faith, we then can look forward to His coming, knowing that the burning up is not for us; instead, the blessedness of the new heavens and the new earth will be for us

As the flood came on the people in the time of Noah

Mat 24:36-39 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. (37) But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (38) 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, (39) And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

-they were going about their lives, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage

-they did not know the flood was coming

-the flood came and took them all away

Gen 6:11-18 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. (12) And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. (13) And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. (14) Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. (15) And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. (16) A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. (17) And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. (18) But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

2Pe 2:5-9 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; (6) And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; (7) And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (8) (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) (9) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

As the thief comes on a homeowner

Mat 24:43 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.

- the homeowner was not watching
- he did not know the thief was coming
- the thief broken into his house

As a lord comes on an evil servant

Mat 24:48-51 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; (49) And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; (50) 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, (51) And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- the evil servant was mistreating the other servants and eating and drinking with the drunken
- he did not know the lord was coming at the time he did
- the lord cut him asunder and appointed him his portion with the hypocrites, where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth

Luk 12:45-47 But if that seruant say in his heart, My master doeth deferre his comming, and ginne to smite the seruants, and maydens, and to eate, and drinke, and to be drunken, (46) The master of that seruant will come in a day when he thinketh not, and at an houre when he is not ware of, and will cut him off, and giue him his portion with the vnbeleeuers. (47) And that seruant that knewe his masters will, and prepared not himselfe, neither did according to his will, shalbe beaten with many stripes.

- he shall be beaten with many stripes

As labor upon a woman with child

1Th 5:1-3 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. (2) For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. (3) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

-they shall not escape

2Pe 3:8-18 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (11) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, (12) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (13) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (14) Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. (15) And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; (16) As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. (17) Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. (18) But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.