

**TEXT-** **Mark 13:32-37** *But of that day and that hour knoweth no man . . .*

**INTRO** —**Mark 13**, exhortations—*watch, be on guard, stay awake!* Note especially the final verse of the chapter, where Jesus said this: **Mark 13:37** *And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. Watch or Be alert!*” (v. 37). Jesus’ final word on this subject in Mark’s Gospel. The recurring theme of Scripture concerning the second coming is to be ready, and Scripture is not silent on how to prepare:

### I. Live in the light of His first coming.

Do you want to be prepared for Jesus’ second coming? Then live like His first coming mattered.

Jesus spoke parables about His return. In **Luke 19:11-27**, He told about a nobleman who traveled to a far country to become king. This nobleman called ten of his servants, gave them each a (coin), and told them: **vs. 13-19** *“Occupy till I come.”*

After an unspecified duration of time, the nobleman returned as king and summoned his servants to give an account of their faithfulness. The first two servants had been productive with what was entrusted to them. But another servant had done nothing. He simply wrapped his talent in a cloth and hid it. His mistake was that he didn’t act on what he professed to believe. He professed something about his master but didn’t live by his profession, and lost his reward (**vv. 21-23**).

Those who profess Christ as Lord and live according to their profession will receive great reward when Jesus returns.

**Hebrews 12:2** *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

### II. Be discerning.

Twice in **Mark 13** Jesus warned His disciples not to be led astray by false claim: **vs. 5** *“And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:”*

**Mark 13:21-22** *And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.*

Don’t let anyone deceive you **2 Thessalonians 2:3** *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

Use discernment in listening to those who claim to have all the details of the end times figured out, and ignore those who resort to date setting.

### III. Accept the uncertainties.

Watch! Be alert! For you don’t know when the time is coming” **Mark 13:32-33** *But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*

**Romans 8:26** *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

### IV. Don’t lose hope.

Paul reminded Titus that Jesus’ first coming brought salvation and it instructs us how to live “righteous, and godly” lives in this present age. It is our “blessed hope”—the expectation of Jesus’ return—that compels us to do so **Titus 2:11-13** *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

**Psalms 43:5** *Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.*

### V. Encourage one another.

The promise that “the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout” **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

Again, the affirmation that “the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night” **1 Thess. 5:2** is followed by the exhortation: **1 Thessalonians 5:11** *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

Scripture’s teachings about the second coming are not given to satisfy our personal fascination with future events but that the body of Christ might encourage one another with the promises.

### VI. Live as if today was the day.

If we’re not careful, the delay in Jesus’ return will lead us to complacency. Living in the expectation that He could return today compels us to live every day for what really matters—for eternity.

**Matthew 26:40-41** *And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:6** *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

### **VII. Keep on doing the work Jesus left us to do.**

**John 9:4** *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

Jesus warned of troubling events as we near the end of the age, including persecution of believers (Mark 13:7-9). Then He added that nothing—not even persecution—should distract us from the one necessary thing: preach to the gospel to all nations (v. 10).

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus gave the church its marching orders:

**Acts 1:8** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

The very next verses report that the disciples just stood there looking up into the sky. Two angels appeared and spoke the words the church today needs to hear: **Acts 1:9-11** *Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

**CONCL** – Are we watching as he watched—"not asleep in sin, but diligent in the Lord's service, and rejoicing in his praises"?