



EVER READY

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Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. - Revelation 14:12

The disciples of the primitive church believed Jesus would come in their time. John wrote: *"Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour"* (1 John 2:18:). Paul wrote: *"And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light"* (Romans 13: 11-12).

The disciples of Jesus expected to see their Lord coming in the clouds of heaven in their time; their salvation and relationship with Jesus were matters of life not to play with. They put emphasis on the Word of God, prayer or relationship with the Lord was their life priority, and living for

Jesus was their daily earnest desire. They were known to have been with the Lord, and they labor to hasten their reunion with Him. They lived prepared every day as if it were the last day Jesus was to return.

The Theologian and roman cardinal Newman said that:

- If it is true that Christians had waited for Christ when they were expecting Him the most, it is also true that He will come in a time when the world would not be expecting Him (*Les Sentiers de La Foi*; Charles Gerber).

Today , we speak of the return of Jesus, but we do not live for that soon return as the Christians of the primitive church did. According to the Bible, the church and the world will be fast asleep before the return of Christ; *"At midnight, the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!-(Matthew 25:5); in other words, the world, especially the church will be in a careless, relaxing mood, when Jesus will come; Paul wrote: "for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night"- (1 Thessalonians 5:2) and Jesus Himself said: "you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him - Matthew 24; "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come" - (Matthew 24:44).*

The Bible said that we ourselves know very well that the coming of Jesus will surprise us, and cut us unaware. For that reason, we are recommended:

- To be alert and of sober mind (1 Peter 5:8)
- To keep watch (Matthew 25:13)
- To Be occupied until He comes (Luke 19:13)
- To abide continuously in Him (1 John 2:28).

Are you ever ready for the return of the Lord Jesus-Christ as the disciples were? They lived with the hope of His return and they died in the hope of His return.

Do do you think a preparation for His return is not needed as long as you are a generational denominational Christian? Or do you think your church

membership without relationship with Christ guarantees your salvation? The advice of the Lord Jesus is crystal clear; He will surprise the world as a thief in the night. Therefore we must watch and pray.

May God help us to be awake from our slumber, and be found ready when
He comes. Amen!

Yours in the blessed hope.

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