

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted May 22, 2022

T I T L E: The Nature of Watchfulness in Light of the Imminency of His Return

T E X T: Mark 13:34-37

Sermon Series: Things to Come: An Eschatological and Biblical Perspective

Theme: Scripture assures believers that divine intervention will occur someday unmistakably interpreted as the personal return of Christ, therefore "be watchful."

I. WATCHFULNESS AND THE CONDITION OF ONE'S SOUL ESPECIALLY IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE IMMINENCY OF HIS RETURN.

Romans 8:6, 9; 2 Corinthians 13:5

II. WATCHFULNESS AND THE EFFICACY OF HIS WORD RELATIVE TO HOLY LIVING AND THE IMMINENCY OF HIS RETURN

Sin and the Efficacy of God's Word... Psalm 119:11

Purity of Life and imminency of His return...1 John 3:3

Loquacious Person --- Prov. 10:19

Arrogant Person --- Proverbs 29:23

Accusatory Person --- Colossians 4:6 Do not respond in anger... James 1:19-20

A. Christians should not take the word of God lightly.

Use caution when considering the word of God... i.e. do not place yourself above it.... do not dialogue with it in terms of you being equal with it, etc. but place yourself beneath it in terms of obedience and holiness of life.

B. Christians should have more than just a superficial knowledge of the word of God.

A young preacher was interviewing for his first church. Though he had never pastored, he was excited when the church and Pastor Search Committee invited him to come for an interview. He was being questioned by the Search Committee when the Chairman questioned, "Brother, do you know the Bible?" The young preacher responded, "Yes Sir, I really know the Bible." "Which part are you most familiar? I know the New Testament best," was the young preacher's response. "Very well" said the chairman why not tell us something you know about the New Testament. for instance, tell the Committee the story of the Prodigal Son. "All right," the potential pastor remarked, There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus who went down to Jericho by night, and he fell upon stony ground and the thorns choked him half to death. The next morning Solomon and his wife Gomorrah came by and carried him down to the ark for Moses to take care of. As he was going through the Eastern Gate into the ark, he caught his hair on a limb, and he hung there for 40 days and 40 nights. Afterwards he hungered and the ravens came and fed him. The next day the three wise men came and carried him down to the boat and he caught a ship to Nineveh. When he got there, he found Delilah sitting on the wall. He said, "Chunk her down, boys, ' and they said, 'How many times shall we chunk her - till seven times seven? And he said, Nay, but seventy times seven and they chunked her down 490 times. She burst asunder in their midst. Then, they picked up twelve baskets of the fragments of her, in the resurrection whose wife will she be?

The Chairman of the search committee remarked, "Committee Members, I think we ought to call him. Sure, he is young, but he definitely knows the Bible!"

The better you know the Bible the more humorous this story becomes.

III. WATCHFULNESS AND A DISPOSITION OF THE MIND OR ATTITUDE BORDERING ON "SPIRITUAL INDIFFERENCE" RELATIVE TO WORSHIP AND SERVANTHOOD IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE IMMINENCY OF HIS RETURN.

Hebrews 10:24–25

IV. WATCHFULNESS AND THE INFLUENCE OF WORLDLINESS IN THE FAMILY OF GOD IN LIGHT OF BEING HELD ACCOUNTABLE AT THE IMPENDING JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST WHEN HE RETURNS WHICH COULD HAPPEN AT ANY MOMENT.

Worldliness: Examine your worldview.

Romans 12:1–2

The survey, released Thursday by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, shows that only 37 percent of pastors in the U.S. hold a biblical worldview.

An accompanying report labeled the findings "shocking." "This is another strong piece of evidence that the culture is influencing the American church more than Christian churches are influencing the culture," said Barna, director of research at the university's Cultural Research Center.

I wonder if this is the result of a lack of knowledge of the word of God or do they know the word of God and refuse to abide by it?

Conclusion: