

Keep Watch!

December 3, 2017 – Mark 13:32-33; 36-37

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come..... If He comes suddenly, do not let Him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch!”

How much sleep do you get at night? How much sleep would you like to get each night or each day?

According to some experts the average amount of sleep needed / recommended ranges from 17 hours for a newborn baby; 10 hours for someone age 14-17; 9 hours for someone 26-64; 8 hours for someone 65 years of age or older. 33 % to as much as 70 % of your life is spent sleeping. {That means that only 30 % to 66% of the time you are awake. (If you follow the advice of some experts)}

Those same experts say that not getting enough sleep can lead to health problems which could include: Impaired brain activity, learning and concentration problems, low levels of the ability to cope with stress, weak immune system, weight gain, increased risk for diabetes and heart disease as well as certain cancers.

Yet Jesus, Who is God, and Who made us says:

Vs. 36 – If He comes suddenly, do not let Him find you sleeping.

What is Jesus talking about?

Is He speaking of the sleep that we enjoy each night? No! Jesus is talking of Spiritual sleep. Spiritually unaware. Those who are not prepared for Jesus’ 2nd Coming on the last day are spiritually asleep.

This entire chapter of Mark (Ch. 13) together with Matt. 24-25 and Lk.21 are all dealing with the signs of the End of the Age and Christ’s 2nd Coming.

Jesus makes note of signs of the end time that included the destruction of Jerusalem which occurred in 70 A.D. by the Romans under a Roman leader named Titus.

Other signs of the end times which Jesus gives includes: Many false prophets, an increase in wickedness, wars and rumors of wars, famines and earthquakes, children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

Let us ask a pointed question. If someone declares themselves a Christian, they stood before the altar of God and professed that they would be faithful to God until their dying breath:

Is such a person really / truly **keeping watch** if they do not study or read the word of God on a regular basis at home?

Is such a person really **keeping watch** if they do not join together in regular Public Worship with fellow Christians and they do not regularly partake of the Lord’s Supper in which we receive Christ’s Body and Blood which is Really present, in / with and under the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of sins?

Is such a person who has promised to be faithful to God all their life, yet they **willfully and knowingly** live a sinful life by disobeying the 10 Commandments of our Lord God, is such a person really **keeping watch**?

What Jesus says is:

Vs. 33 – Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.

Vs. 37 – What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch!

Jesus then gives an example in this section of Mark.

Vs. 34 – It is like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

Vs. 35 – Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

Vs. 36 – If He comes suddenly, do not let Him find you sleeping.

Imagine being a soldier in Vietnam or in World War I or WWII and you are the person on guard duty. If as the guard you fall asleep while on guard duty it means that the enemy can slip in unaware and can kill you, as well as all those soldiers who are asleep.

As Believers and followers of our Lord Jesus Christ we know by God's Grace what Scripture says and so This Advent Season:

1. We look forward to celebrating the 1st Coming of Jesus as a humble infant
2. We Thank the Lord God for Coming to Us in Word and Sacrament and Creating Saving Faith in our hearts.
3. We are reminded that Jesus will Come again on the Last Day to Judge All Mankind.
4. We pray that the Lord would Come to others in Word and Sacrament and bring others to faith in Jesus as their Savior, so that they too will enjoy eternal life in heaven with us.

For "God demonstrated His Love for us in This: While we were still sinners, Christ Died for us."

(Romans 5:8)

AMEN