

passages make it absolutely clear that we are to be ready at any time since we do not know when He may come.

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### **THE DATE OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

My own field of study is the Old Testament, and I do not claim to speak as a first-hand witness to matters of New Testament criticism. At the same time, I have come across one or two interesting sidelights recently which might be of interest to you. They indicate a revolt on the part of certain liberal or radical scholars against commonly accepted liberal views which have been regarded in many quarters as completely proven.

As you of course know, liberal scholars for many years have considered that the first three Gospels, the so-called Synoptics, were written a comparatively few years after the time of Christ, but that the Gospel of John was written long after and represented merely the opinion of a later day, giving us no first-hand evidence of the facts of the life of Christ or historical matters of the time.

This view has been so widely accepted and firmly established that to question it has seemed in the eyes of liberal scholars to mark one down as of no scholarly standing whatever. Recently it has been strongly questioned, however, from two men of unquestioned scholarship who are themselves disbelievers in the supernatural elements of Christianity.

The earlier of these two of whom I speak is Professor Charles C. Torrey, Professor of Semitic Languages at Yale University, who has recently retired. By no means a conservative in theological