R 3

Then we noticed last week that there seems to be another strictly limited. rather definite aspect connected up with the return of Christ, that there is given, not in one place in the New Testament, but in many places, a practical exhortation connected with the return of Christ, and this practical exhortation, being given in seven or eight different instances which seem to be something which the Lord considered to be of real importance in connection with His return, and that makes it quite necessary in view of the practical importance which He gives to it, it makes it quite necessary that we make sure that we understand just what these passages mean. What is the practical exhortation, what is he urging us to do and why, what is the reason whi He is urging it? If it is just one instance we can say, "Here is an obscure passage, we don't quite understand it, we'll study into it but if we don't get the answer we'll put it on the shelf and we'll wait for more light; but here is a matter that is given us seven or eight times in the New Testament and that heing the case it certainly is vital that we recognize that it is something that the Lord desires should have an effect upon our lives. It is something of real practical importance for us, and the thing that He says is that we are to watch and the English is extremely confusing here because if you take it in its natural sense of this English word "watch" you certainly would think that He means that we should be so busy watching the signs of the times that we wouldn't have time to do much definite Christian work, but if you take the word "watch" in the sense of the Greek word that is used there we find that it is never used in the sense of "watch for something", the two words used never are used in that sense. in Scripture, nor are they ever used in the sense of "look at something". A man sits and watches the clock. That would never be " These words do not have that meaning at all of looking at something or of looking for something, but the meaning is to be wakeful, to be vigilant, to be active, and so this frequently repeated exhortation in the New Testament is an exhortation to godly Christian living and to carrying out of the work which