

They refer instead to an attitude of constant wakefulness and watchfulness that ~~we~~ may make our lives be such as He would have them to be. It is easy to become careless and indifferent to the things of the Lord. God wants us to be on our guard for this, to remember that Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth. The exact time of His coming is something which has been carefully kept from us. We are told repeatedly that we are not to know, that no one on earth is to know exactly when He is to come back. He wants us always to be ready in such a way that we will be ready for His coming.

In the second place, this doctrine should stir us to greater zeal in our attempt to spread the Gospel. If we do not know when Christ is coming back to this earth we do not know how soon the opportunity to accept Him may come to an end. During this age He is pleading with all the earth to accept salvation through Christ. The offer is open to all. God has marvelously planned in His inscrutable will exactly who is going to accept, but that is a matter which we as individuals cannot know. He has given us the tact and the opportunity of bringing individuals to Himself. We do not know how long and earnest the opportunity will last. He wants us to be vigilant/in our efforts to spread the Gospel.

In the third place we are told that this doctrine should have a definite effect on the purity of our lives. John says, "and everyone that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure. Christ told us in Matthew that in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. We are never to say, to become lax and careless in our lives, but constantly to be watching and ready for His return.

We are exhorted to love the return of Christ. What a pleasure it will be to see Him who died for us, to see our risen Lord as He returns to this earth. Oh, what joy that time will bring to every true Christian. Paul said that there is a crown for everyone who loves His appearing. How can the true Christian fail to love and to long for and to hope that it will come very soon?