

R 3
 cometh at an hour when ye think not. Now what does v. 40 mean? Is v. 40 here in connection with what precedes an exhortation to Christian living? Is that what it is, or is it something else? If it is an exhortation to Christian living, how is it an exhortation for Christian living if the coming of the Son of man is something which we know will not take place until after certain other events have taken place. Just how would you interpret the verse? Now, of course, if this was the only verse of this type you might say there was a problem, and let it go at that, but when we have it repeated a number of times it seems to me it's one of the basic problems, is "Does this mean that it was Christ's will that the Church through the ages should not know whether His coming might be tomorrow or today?" It was quite clear that the Church through the ages should not know whether it might be tomorrow or today, that what should be a motive for Christian living which He wished to be present with His Church all through the ages. We notice Peter said, in v. 41, "Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?" He didn't say, "Do you speak this to people at the end of the age or to us, too?" But he said, "Does this parable refer to the leaders of the Church, to the Christians, to the leaders of the Christians, or does it refer to all?" And then, of course, Christ went on to a further/discussion. Now that, I think, is a very vital thing in connection with this whole matter of the rapture and unless we have a definite answer to this question I think that much of the discussion from other points is apt to be fairly unimportant. Here is a basic question, "What is the interpretation of these--at least seven or eight passages in the New Testament, where the Christian is told to be vigilant, because the Son of man comes at an hour when you don't think He will, that it is kept a secret for this purpose?" Does it mean that people in all ages are not to know but what it may be right away. Does it mean that or doesn't it? Now right there I think there is one thing, one caution we should give. You might say, "Well, now, why do we need anything like this as an exhortation for Christian living? It can't be an exhortation to Christian living because