

Be on the Alert  
Matthew 24:29-44

Review:

1. No one knows the day or the hour, so it is impossible to determine exactly when Jesus is coming from the signs He mentions
2. Jesus' coming will be sudden and unexpected, destroying the world as in the days of Noah
3. We must be on the alert, for all the signs of His coming have already been fulfilled

Reflect:

1. How does the certainty of Christ's return challenge your priorities? What changes in your life do you need to make to be ready for His return?

Go further: Read I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

1. In 4:14, what two things does Paul say that he and his readers all believe? What third thing does he say must also be true?
2. In 4:16, what three signs does Paul say will mark the return of Christ? Who will rise into the air to meet Him first?
3. According to 4:17, who will join the risen saints? Where does he say they will meet the Lord? How long will all the saints be with the Lord?
4. What does Paul have no need to write about in 5:1?
5. In 5:2, what does Paul say his readers know about the time of Christ's return?
6. According to 5:3, how will people be describing the times when Christ returns? To what does Paul compare the suddenness of Christ's return?
7. Because his readers are not in darkness, how does Paul say they will not react to the Day of Christ's coming?
8. Of what two things does Paul say his readers are sons? What do you think this means?
9. Given what Paul has taught about the return of Christ up to this point, what does 5:6 say his readers should not do? What two things should they do instead?
10. What two things does Paul say people do at night?
11. According to 5:8, with what two things does Paul want his readers to dress themselves?
12. According to 5:9, what does God not want to happen to Paul's readers? What is God's intention for them instead?
13. In 5:10, what does Paul remind his readers that Christ did for them? How does Paul want them to live in response?
14. According to 5:11, how does Paul want his readers to treat each other?

Summary and Application:

1. In 5:6 and 5:8, Paul encourages his readers to be sober. Peter and Paul both use this word in a figurative sense, meaning to be self-controlled, to show sound judgment, and to be clear-headed. How can you put this principle into practice in your life?
2. If you knew tomorrow would be the last day before the coming of Christ, what would you plan to do? What is stopping you from doing those things?