

## ARE YOU READY?

by Carl McMurray

*“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.” (Mark 13:32-37, ESV)*

Mark 13 above is discussing the coming destruction of Jerusalem, but at least three other points stand out in this passage for us.

The first is, what do you think Jesus’ point in this passage is? It’s not hard to see, is it? Four times in six short verses the Lord says, “Stay awake” or “Keep awake.” Their souls were at stake so he says stay awake. Their physical well-being, in this case, was also at stake so they are warned to stay awake. The NASV uses a similar term, i.e., be on the alert. The warning for the people of God is not grow weary, sleepy, drowsy, or complacent in their spiritual efforts. They/we are to be watchful, alert, awake, and ready to react in righteous ways.

The second thing I note comes from verse 33 where the ESV says, “you do not know when the time will come...” The NASV calls it the “appointed time,” We do not know when our appointed time is coming either. Hebrews 9:27 says that we all have an appointment, with death and judgment, and it does not always come at our planned and convenient time. It comes on the jogging track, grocery store, driving on the interstate, or laying in a hospital bed from a “not so serious illness”. It comes to young people, middle aged, and older folk and we simply do not know when it is coming. Jesus says to be awake though, be ready, be alert, be watchful.

The third point comes from the second one and that is that not only death is coming for all of us, but judgment is too. We shall give account of all our deeds whether good or evil is what Paul told the Corinthians. Are you ready to stand before the Great Judge of All and give account. Jesus says to be ready for this also. Be watchful, be awake, be alert. How is this done? Well, first of all it’s done by becoming a child of God, becoming a baptized believer. Then it comes when we deal with the sin in our lives in proper ways, asking God for His forgiveness as we repent or turn from those things. Be ready, be awake, be watchful, be alert.