

Teaching Notes for "... Are WE Spiritually Watching and Praying Today? – Pt 4"

NewSong Church Pastor David Haltom Sunday, December 3rd, 2023



Today's Focal LifeText: "So **be ready** [alert; watching] **all the time**. **Pray** that you will be strong enough to escape all these things that will [are about to] happen and that you will be able to stand before the Son of Man." **Luke 21: 36** ^{EXB}

reWIND & reVIEW from Pt 3 ...

From last Sunday, we studied two of four primary ways to be a "**watchful**" follower of Jesus Christ ..."

001... **love Christ and His Word** and **seek to keep Him FIRST in their daily life** (i.e. there are no areas off limit to / above Jesus)!

002 ... **seek to obey God** and **quickly confess & repent of their sins** whenever they do fall – stumble [i.e. sin]!

Today we continue with some additional ways that help in our becoming "watchful followers of Jesus Christ" ...

003 ... _____ God's truth so that they can _____ and _____ teachings both _____ and _____ of His Church and NOT be _____ by the enemy's _____ / _____! **Proverbs 4:23** ^{NLT}

Some scriptures about watching emphasize **watching out** for spiritual dangers and enemies such as "**savage wolves**," (**deceivers** / **false teachers**) who want to take advantage of (**destroy** ^{NCV}) God's "**flock**" of followers.

Acts 20:29-31 ^{NLT}, **Matthew 7:16** ^{Amplified}, **1 Thessalonians 5:21** ^{Amplified}, **Acts 17:11** ^{EXB}, **Acts 5:29** ^{Amplified}, **2 Timothy 3:1,13** ^{Amplified}, **2 John 7** ^{Amplified}

004 ... is **spiritually** _____ and _____ **up for warfare / battle with the** _____ **forces of** _____ **operating in this world!**
Ephesians 6:10-11 ^{Amplified}

It's so **easy 2B** _____ **by this world, our fleshly** _____ **and** _____ & the _____ **of the enemy** (2 Corinthians 2:11). When we take our eyes _____ from Jesus & His soon return, our values begin to _____, our **attention** _____, and **soon** **we are** _____ **like the world** and _____ **little** _____ **for God's kingdom!**
(1 Timothy 6:18–19, Romans 14:12; 1 Peter 4:5; Matthew 12:36).

"It is a **war game of** _____ **trying to take our** _____ **away from doing what** _____ **commands**. The **antidote** to all of this effort by Satan is to _____ & _____, **to be aware of his** _____ **so that we can be** _____ **to** _____ **with the Word of God and the** _____ **of God**. We must **monitor and anticipate these influences to** _____ **and be** _____ **to say** '____' **to them** and '____' **to God's instruction(s)!**" ~ Tyrone Yarde, "Watch and Pray," LifeHopeandTruth.com

In 2023, folks are sadly reading _____, studying _____, observing _____, analyzing _____ and thinking far _____ than what we should! Why is this trend gaining traction in the minds of more and more folks today? Simply stated – we've become _____ and _____ **lazy!** **1 Chronicles 12:32** ^{LEB, Lexham English Bible}

The _____ is God's divine revelation of _____ (_____ / _____) **truth** and this it is to serve as the _____ used to **construct** our _____ – the spiritual lens (prism / filter) through which all of life can be accurately perceived / viewed and understood. This helps us develop a godly worldview for our life journey North!

We should stay _____ regarding world affairs so we'll be able to help them understand those events from a _____ !

Our **God-ordained** _____ is to **watch and pray**. _____ **comes from** _____, and **God does not want us to be** _____ **and remain "in spiritual** _____ " (1 Thessalonians 5:1-10). Our Master and role model Jesus Christ certainly understood the issues, politics and personalities of His day. We should do likewise.

Another application of Christ's command to "**watch**" is to act as **spiritual watchmen!** God called the prophet Ezekiel to be a "_____ " to the nation of Israel to _____ **them to** _____ **of their** _____ **ways** or else **suffer dire** _____ (*Ezekiel 3:17; Ezekiel 33:1-7, Acts 1:7 ^{NKJV}, Mark 13:32b-34 ^{Amplified}

Let us all '**Keep watching**'! **Mark 13:35-37:**

_____ is the time to **watch and pray**. We must **ALL** _____ / _____ ... **Colossians 4:2** ^{CSB}

Luke 21:36b declares that believers "**pray constantly** TM" (i.e. **pray at all times**) ... **Luke 18:1** ^{Amplified}

A³ (Accept, Apply & Act)

Extra Notes / Spiritual Insights & Questions ...