

KEEPING WATCH

SCRIPTURE - Mark 13:33-37 "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. {34} "It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch, {35} "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming; in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning; {36} "lest coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. {37} "And I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

INTRODUCTION

- A. 1 Cor 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.
- B. Eph 6:14-18 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, {15} and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; {16} above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. {17} And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, is the word of God; {18} praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.
- C. 1 Th 5:5-8 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. {6} Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. {7} For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. {8} But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.
- D. Our absent Lord has given special commendation to those who not only WAIT for His return, but also earnestly WATCH for Him. The difference between these terms is illustrated by the story of a fishing vessel returning home after many days at sea. As they neared the shore, the sailors gazed eagerly toward the dock where a group of their loved ones had gathered. The skipper looked through his binoculars and identified some of them: "I see Bill's Mary, and there is Tom's Margaret and David's Anne." One man became concerned because his wife was not there. Later, he left the boat with a heavy heart and hurried up the hill to his cottage. As he opened the door, she ran to meet him saying, "I have been waiting for you!" He replied with a gentle rebuke, "Yes, but the other men's wives were watching for them!"
- E. WE ACT DIFFERENTLY WHEN WE ARE WAITING AND WATCHING FOR JESUS

I. WATCH YOUR WILL

- A. Heb 10:7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come To do Your will, O God.'
- B. Mat 26:38-39 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." {39} He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."
- C. Mat 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord/ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he does the will of My Father in heaven. {22} "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' {23} "And then I will declare to them, never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

II. WATCH YOUR WAYS

- A. Prov 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
- B. Prov 5:21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths.
- C. Lam 3:40 Let us search out and examine our ways, And turn back to the LORD;
- D. Isa 55:8-9 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. {9} "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

III. WATCH YOUR WORDS

- A. James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.
- B. James 3:5-10 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! {6} And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. {7} For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. {8} But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. {9} With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God- {10} Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.
- C. Mat 12:35-37 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. {36} "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. {37} "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

IV. WATCH YOUR WORK

- A. 1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.
- B. Mat 9:37 Then He said to His disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.
- C. 1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

V. WATCH YOUR WALK

- A. Col 2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.
- B. 1 John 2:1-6 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. {2} And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. {3} Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. {4} He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. {5} But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. {6} He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
- C. Rom 8:1-8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. {2} For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. {3} For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, {4} that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. {5} For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. {6} For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. {7} Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God: nor indeed can be. {8} So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

CONCLUSION –

- A. How are you doing at watching.....your will, ways, words, work, walk
- B. When we become Christians what was ours becomes His - our sin, our anxieties, but also - our will, our ways, our words, our work, our walk.
- C. What was his becomes ours - righteousness, heaven, eternal life