

sudden I ~~woke~~ up and I jumped out of bed and I turned on the light and I looked at the clock and it said quarter to eleven. So I got back into bed and I tried to sleep some more and I, after half an hour or so I finally got to sleep again and I slept soundly and then I woke with a start and I jumped up and turned on the light and looked at the clock and it said twelve o'clock. I did that about four times and finally about three o'clock in the morning I got to sleep again for the fourth time and the next time I woke up it was eight o'clock and the sun was shining. As far as I am concerned it would be much better to turn on the alarm clock and say, "Begin to be watchful after you hear the alarm clock ring, but relax before that time." Well, there are many cases, probably, in the Bible, where we are told when a thing happens, when you see this coming, when such and such a result comes, then you adopt a certain attitude, that is vital in that time, but in this connection we have in Luke 12 nothing whatever to suggest that this command to watch relates only to a distant time and in other cases we have a few verses before discussion of events at a later time but there is no word specifically connecting this command to those events. The command is given in Luke 12 with no relation whatever to any statement of anything we see that occurs at a later time. In other cases, there is no explicit connection with any such thing, but the command is repeatedly given in the Scripture and it is to watch, for ye know not the day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh, and so that would seem to be an exhortation, not when the alarm clock goes off, then to get vigilant and active, and on your toes, but to be on your toes all the time, right from the start, and it would seem at least from the obvious interpretation of these seven or eight passages that we have a practical ^{here} exhortation, a fourth reason for vital, active, energetic, watchful Christian life, a fourth reason, based upon the fact that we do not know whether the return of Christ is going to come today or whether it may not come till some time in the future. These verses do not say anything whatever about whether the return of Christ is to come before or after a tribulation, but they do seem to say that it is something which we cannot say must not come till after something else happens. That is certainly the obvious interpretation of the verses. Now, we