

lost, and helping those who are saved to grow in grace, through feeding on God's Word. If our Lord finds us active in this service, He will be pleased.

It may be noticed that there is no suggestion that the good servant should be constantly running to the window to look for signs of his Lord's return, or that he should be speculating a great deal as to just when the Lord will come. If he is faithful he will work continuously at the tasks which his Lord has given him.

Verse 47. "He will make him ruler over all His goods."

Elsewhere Christ promises that those who are faithful to Him in this age will be rewarded with positions of leadership in His kingdom. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him" (2 Tim. 2:12; cf. also Rev. 5:9-10; 20:4-6).

Verses 48-51. These verses show the other side of the illustration. The evil servant forgets all about the Master's coming, strikes his fellow servants, and eats and drinks with the drunken. The Lord of that servant will come at a time when he is not expecting Him, and will cut him asunder and give him a portion with the hypocrites. This is a hypothetical picture. We can be sure that no true servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom He has redeemed with His own blood, will be found in this situation. It is a terrible warning to us, to lead us to greater alertness.

Sometimes this illustration of the evil servant (and the similar story of the foolish virgins in Matt. 25:1-13) is taken as proving that the command to watch is not addressed to the Christian but to the unbeliever. Nothing could be further from the truth. The unbeliever is commanded, not to watch, but to repent. His duty is to turn around and accept Christ as Saviour. The commands to watch, to be vigilant, to be active in the Lord's service, apply only to the Christian. The many exhortations in Scripture that