

in the Lord is to be ready at all times because from the very beginning of the church it was not His will that we know when He's coming. If we'd all agree he was coming tonight, that would be pretty good proof He wasn't. If we'd all agree He won't come tonight, He may come.

This teaching of the rapture of the church is a tremendous teaching. It is something the Lord means to be a constant thing to keep us on our toes. We are apt to be misled by that word "watch." Unfortunately the word "watch" in English has several meanings. You remember ~~we~~ we mentioned on Sunday morning, that the angel said when the Lord went into heaven, As His disciples saw Him, go so the Christians will see Him coming. This same Jesus. Why stand ye gazing into heaven. Watch, does not mean just looking up to heaven to see if the Lord is coming. Watch, does not mean Look at world affairs, and say, Oh my, it's going to be next month, it's going to be next week, it's going to be this year. No. The signs look as if it is getting nearer. There's no questions it is nearer today than it was yesterday. It's nearer this year than it was last year, but the Lord has not revealed when He is coming. He does not want us to be constantly ~~xxxix~~ trying to figure out when he's ~~xxxx~~ going to come. The word translated "watch" here is the same word used where Paul said of what he had done in the Lord's service, "of watchings oft." He meant in working through the night, ~~xxxx~~ toiling away, even though he lost his sleep in so doing. "In watchings oft." It means be on the job, be active, be vigilant serving the Lord. Be watching for all that will destroy the Lord's work, to hold it off and stop it. Be watching for opportunities to advance the knowledge of the Lord. Watch, be on the job, for ye know not when the Son of Man cometh. The rapture of the church is one of the great foundation stones of prophetic teachings.

You can try to spend time trying to figure, Is the rapture going to be at the end of the week? Is it going to be at the beginning of the week? Is it going to be in the middle of the week? Look at this obscure verse, look at that obscure verse. Try to compare them and figure. You can spend hours and days working on such things. But a dozen times we have it ~~xxxx~~ stated, "In such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh" and that ought to be == ought to settle the matter. There is no known recognizable event that must precede the coming of the Lord for His own. Now of course when the Lord comes again Christians go to meet the Lord in the air, the wedding feast of the Lamb. On earth the wrath of God is poured out. Then the Lord returns with His saints to set up His kingdom upon this earth. Then all the tribes of earth will see the sign of the Son of Man in the heavens and they will mourn because of Him. Israel will be a nation born in a day, turning to their true Messiah. Many things will happen in that period. But for the Christian the first event of the eschatological complex is the sudden return of the Lord for His saints. In such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh.