

task. He tells them to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you I say to everyone, Watch!! What a stress to lay upon this.

I've known people who have said these are in the midst of our Lord's giving pictures of what is going to happen in an eschatological complex. He is telling us about those events that are going to happen way off in the future when a lot of things come together in an eschatological complex at the very end of the age. Therefore when he says, You cannot know the day nor hour He means people who are living at that time do not know the day nor the hour but they will know it is getting near. It does not sound very much to me in what Paul said of his longing for His coming as if he thought these statements belong to an eschatological complex.

But if you look at the Gospel of Luke, you find in the 12th chapter of Luke that there is no eschatological complex. The Gospel of Luke has a ch. which is dealing particularly with the attitude Jesus wanted His disciples to have and describes various aspects of the attitude they should have. In vv. 35ff. He deals with one aspect of their attitude. He says, Be dressed always for service and keep you lamps burning like men waiting for their Master to return from a wedding banquet. So that if comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose Master finds they watching when He comes. I tell you the truth he will dress himself and serve and will have them recline at table and come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready. Even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night."

He stresses, here "You also must be ready because the Son of Man will come in a hour when you do not expect Him." He did not say, People 2000 years from now, or 2500 years from now when the eschatological complex comes must be ready and watching because they don't know when their Lord comes! We read in v. 41, "Peter said, 'Lord are you giving this for people 2500 years from now? or does it relate to us?' Those are not his exact words. He said, "Lord are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone? The Lord answered and repeated the general thought of the parable, stressing the fact that we are not to say, My Master is taking a long time incoming.

They are to be ready. He says the Master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him. So these vv. are very practical. They have a definite importance for us. They are to have a bearing on our lives. We are to be like Paul-- to have a longing for His coming and who try each day to live in such a