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Rapture 7/17/17 #3

of man cometh." You know I think it's very important that we go to the Bible to get our truth, rather than taking our ideas and looking for proof textst. But I think we should not only say, whatever we find in the Bible we're going to stand on. I think that we should recognize that the emphasis of the ~~Bible~~ Bible is important. If you build a whole doctrine on one verse of ~~Scripture~~ Scripture somewhere you better be careful. You may be misinterpreting that verse. There are whole denominations that are split and having nothing to do with each other because of a difference on some point which the Lord could easily have made absolutely clear with just one clear statement in Scripture. And when we have disagreements over matters that are no clearer than that in the Scripture I think we can expect the Lord's rebuke for having made divisions over such matters. What the Lord feels is important for us to know and stand on He expresses clearly and plainly. But surely the verses I have read to you are ~~enough~~ sufficient evidence to show that He clearly and plainly expresses this fact, that the Christian should always be ready for the Lord to come because in such an hour as ye think/<sup>not</sup>~~not~~ He's going to come. I heard some years ago about a man who said to a friend, "Do you think the Lord will ~~come~~ come tonight?" He ~~xi~~ said, "Oh, certainly not tonight." He turned to another friend, "Do you think the Lord will come -?" "Oh I'm sure not tonight." ~~z~~ A third said the same thing, and a fourth. Then he opened the Scripture and read, "in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." The Lord wants us always to be ready. He has not told us when He is coming, but it is unexpected; it is sudden; it is a think that we cannot tell when it is going to be. Now how do we fit together these two things? The~~r~~ return of the Lord in the clouds of the heavens: it comes with many events before it ~~that~~ that a person ought to be able to recognize. But the Chn° is told, Be ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man is going to come. There is only one possible way to make sense out of it. That is to recognize that ~~there~~ there are two stages in the Lord's coming: that there is a coming for His own people, a coming which is sudden, which is unexpected, which we have absolutely no way of knowing when it's going to be.