

MEDITATION ON READY OR NOT

Luke 12:40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

This verse reminds me of the childhood game of Hide and Seek. We would all run to find a hiding place while the seeker counted down the seconds. When the time ran out, he would call, "Here I come, ready or not!" How well I remember the dread of being discovered when the seeker approached my hiding place. I would will myself to be invisible, keeping my body immobile and holding my breath lest the slightest sound betray me. As the seeker loomed ever closer, it took all my will-power to suppress the urge to flee. I knew I was doomed, yet that small hope remained; that somehow I would not be found. The seeker would pass me by.

In contrast, when the Lord Himself descends from heaven with a shout that will penetrate even the fog of death; those who are His will not be passed by. When He calls, "Here I come, ready or not," those who have left their hiding place of darkness and walked in the light (1Jn 1:7), those who have hungered and thirsted for the living God (Ps 42:2), those who have donned the helmet of salvation (1 Thess 5:8) and the breastplate of righteousness (Eph 6:14) and had the cry of "Maranatha" on their lips, will be swept into His glorious presence in the twinkling of an eye.

As I meditate on this blessed hope, the promise of His coming, I must ask myself, "Am I ready?" Does my unshakeable belief in His soon return transfer into my daily life? Does my attitude reflect my belief?

Returning to the verse that began my meditation, I notice the Word says, "Be ye therefore ready also: Is there a clue here about what true readiness entails? The Bible is a book of answers, and in the preceding verses, I found mine.

Luke 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

Because of the nature of the Oriental dress, which was a long, flowing robe, it became necessary to tie the robe up with a sash or girdle before any work could be done. I must be found working. Also, this verse tells me to keep my light burning. I must be found witnessing. The next verse has another clue:

Luke 12:36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, . . .

This word, wait, in the original language has the connotation of expectancy. It is not a passive word but rather an active one. I must be found waiting. Likewise, the next:

Luke 12:37 Blessed *are* those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching:

This word denotes an energetic vigilance. I must be found watching.

Working, Witnessing, Waiting, Watching; four very active activities that supersede all others if I am to be found ready when He comes.