

are we really watching

"and what I say to you, I say to all: watch!" mark
13:37

definition of watch - "the act of watching; forbearance of sleep; vigil; wakeful, vigilant, or constantly observant attention; close observation; guard; preservative or preventive vigilance; formerly, a watching or guarding by night."

when i read that definition i wonder if we are really watching or not. the shepherd watching over the sheep knew that it was a matter of urgency. "give no sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids." prov 6:4 there is a good shepherd and there is a bad shepherd. we are told, "be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." 1 pet 5:8

our Lord's command to watch is not only for His secret appearing. to be sure we must be vigilant for that but there is much more we should be watchful of. a roman sentry understood his very life was depended on his vigilance. sleep would often lead to the sleep of death. may our prayer be: "consider and hear me, o Lord my God; enlighten my eyes, lest i sleep the sleep of death." psa 13:3

"the night is far spent, the day is at hand. therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." rom 13:12 no, none of us can ever be good enough to "earn" heaven. that necessitated the blood of Jesus; the perfect lamb. but

it is high time that we awake out of our darkness. the blood is there to cover the sin we repent of - not to approve the sin we wallow in.

"neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. and such were some of you." 1 cor 6:9-11 it doesn't say such "are" some of you. sin has consequences. we go about our merry way and when something goes wrong we say, "why has this happened to me?"

"all things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. all things are lawful for me, but i will not be brought under the power of any." 12 cor 6:12 sure, you may keep your salvation but what will be the results of a life lived in sin? "let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." heb 12:1 it does ensnare us. it is deceptively deliberate in it's purpose. to divert you from God's grace.

"if we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. but if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 john 1:6-8

are you comfortable in your sin? do you no longer feel the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit. perhaps you should really check yourself. no, works alone can never save us, but where is the joy and fruit the Holy Spirit brings? james asks the question and then answers it. "if someone says he has faith but does not have works, can faith save him? ... show me your faith without your works, and i will show you my faith by my works." james 2:14,18 love will indeed cover a multitude of sins, but had you not rather your love serve as a reward instead of a covering?

there are many things one needs to be watchful for in these deceptive times; not just in a glance but in a vigil watch. remember that roaring lion. he's a hungry lion and only God has been known to shut the mouth of hungry lions. just as He makes the firey furnace become as a spring breeze.

"no temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." 1 cor 10:13

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