

# LEGACY

OF GRACE DEVOTIONAL  
BE READY

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

GRACE  
FELLOWSHIP

**Discussion Starter #1:** How much of a motivation for holy living do you think Christ's second coming is for the Christians you know?

**Key Passage:** *"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,<sup>36</sup> and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.<sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.<sup>38</sup> If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!<sup>39</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.<sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."<sup>41</sup> Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?"<sup>42</sup> And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?<sup>43</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.<sup>44</sup> Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.<sup>45</sup> But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk,<sup>46</sup> the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.<sup>47</sup> And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating.<sup>48</sup> But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more." (Luke 12:35-48)*

In this text, Jesus uses three illustrations to encourage His disciples to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man. First, Jesus says to *"stay dressed for action"* (v.35a). In Bible times, men wore a tunic that was ankle length; thus, it would be a hindrance if the man had to run or move quickly. The man would reach down and gather the material between his ankles, then pull the material forward and up around his upper thighs and tuck the material into his belt to free his legs for movement and running (this was called "girding your loins"). Jesus uses this as a picture of always being ready for action.

Second, Jesus says to *"keep your lamps burning"* (v.35b). To keep your lamps constantly burning indicated alertness and availability at all times – even at night (instead of sleeping).

Third, Jesus emphasizes that servants needed to be ready and waiting so that they could immediately open the door and welcome their leader back whenever he returns from a wedding, even if it is very late (v.36). The master would bless the servant who is alert and ready, but punishment would await the servant who was not alert and ready (v.37-48).

**Discuss:** What could hinder a Christian from being ready for Christ's return?

## Are we living in the end times?

The Bible prophesies many events that will occur in the end times. Here is a sampling of these signs:

- **Natural Signs** – Earthquakes, famines, pestilences (Lk.21:11)

**Discuss:** What are some current events in the natural realm that could be examples of end-times signs?

- **Spiritual Signs** – People following false teachers (2 Tim.4:3-34) but also outbreaks of great Christ-honoring spiritual revivals (Joel 2:28-29)

**Discuss:** What are some current events in the spiritual realm that could be examples of end-times signs?

- **Societal Signs** – Rampant immorality, materialism, and rebellion against God (2 Tim.3:13)

**Discuss:** What are some current events in the societal realm that could be examples of end-times signs?

The fulfillment of some end-times prophecies seems to require modern technology. For example, the Antichrist is said to control commerce by forcing people to take the mark of the beast (Rev.13), and modern computer chip technology could be the tools he will use to carry this out. And the gospel can now be proclaimed to the whole world through the internet, radio, and TV (Mk.13:10).

**Discuss:** What are some current events in the technological realm that could be examples of end-times signs?

## Is Jesus Returning Soon?

Yes! In fact, Jesus Himself said that He is coming soon: “*He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon’*” (Revelation 22:20). The Greek word translated “soon” is *tachu*. It does not mean “immediately”; rather, it means “without unnecessary delay.” God is not dragging His feet! Everything is moving along according to God’s precise timetable, and Jesus will return at the perfect time without any unnecessary delay.

**Discuss:** Why do you think God is not specific in the Bible about the day or hour Jesus will return?

## For Further Study

*The Second Coming: Signs of Christ’s Return and the End of the Age* by John MacArthur

[www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org) – “What is the Second Coming of Christ?” article

[www.thekingiscoming.com](http://www.thekingiscoming.com) – Ed Hindson video