

ness? "Therefore," He says, "be ye also ready." But how may one be ready and watchful for the Lord's coming? This is the great question. Let the Lord Himself give answer in this part of the discourse.

The Christian is ready and watchful for His Lord's coming when he is engaged in the quiet and constant discharge of appointed tasks, (Matt. 24:54-51.) This is set before us by a pair of contrasted parabolic pictures. There are two servants, who by their Lord, have been set over the household, to give the children food in the appointed season. The one is faithful to his Lord during His absence, and wise in the exercise of his duty toward all his inferior servants. The other is evil and says in his heart, "My Lord delayeth His coming," and he becomes cruel to his fellow-servants and eats and drinks with the drunken. The first servant was ready and watchful for his Lord's coming because he was found doing the duties which the Lord has given him to discharge. The other servant is taken by surprise and judgment, because he is found eating and drinking with the drunken. That was a wise judge, who, when sudden darkness came on, and people thought the end of the world had come, said, "Bring lights and let us go on with the case." We cannot be better employed if the end has come, than in doing our duty.

Again, let me say, that the Christian is ready, and watchful when he keeps ever be-