

R 6

show that the coming is approaching. Then when those signs come, then we know that after that time, some time within the next month or two he will appear, but we don't know when, but," "Well, then," they might say, "We'll begin to watch then. Is this direction to people, "When you see the sign, begin watching. Then you get busy and you clean up and you get yourself ready." Or is it something that applies all through the ages? Does it teach that the coming of Christ is imminent from the day He ascended into heaven in the sense that they didn't know when He was coming back and therefore were to be constantly alert? Mr. Cordes? (Student) Mr. Cordes has a very good point. This cannot be, must not be, the only incentive to Christian living. If this is the only incentive to Christian living I would just about say the person isn't a Christian. If a person is only living in service to the Lord because he knows the Lord might come and he wouldn't want to be found otherwise, well he has no knowledge of the truth, certainly. God is omniscient, He is everything, and He wants us to be active all the time in His service, but is this a, somewhat of an additional point, urging us to Christian living now, or is it an additional point urging people of some future time to Christian living, not applying to us now. That is, as it stands it is presented as an argument for Christian living, not the main argument, not nearly as important an argument as the omniscience of God but yet it is presented as an argument, for Christian living. He says, "Be ye therefore ready also for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." It is presented as an argument for watchfulness, for ceaseless vigilance and activity, that He is coming, and you want Him to find you actively serving Him when He comes. Well, now, is this an argument, then, not the main argument, but an argument which applies only to people at a little space of time after certain signs appear or is it an argument which applies to Christians all through the ages, or is it not an argument at all? Does it mean something else? If it means something else, what