

Shall we open our Bibles to the 12th ch. of the Gospel of Luke. I would like to read there vs. 35 - 43. In this ch. our Lord Jesus Christ is telling the disciples how they are to live, what characteristics are to be distinctive of them. We have not time today to look at many of these qualities. I wish to call your attention very specifically to the one that is described in these particular verses -- vs. 35-43. (Reading text . . . )

Here our Lord described the characteristic that he wished Pet. and the other disciples, and all His followers in subsequent days to be characterized by. They were to be giving His household their food in due season so that when the Lord would come he would find them watching, that is wide awake, active, on the job, doing what He wants them to do. "Be ye therefore ready also" He said, "for the Son of Man comes at an hour when ye think not." We at Biblical believe that it is very important that we take a scholarly attitude toward all matters. That is that we look at all sides, that we simply do not adopt a dogmatic attitude on particular questions without looking into them thoroughly. We believe in seeing the evidence, and in withholding judgment where the evidence is not clear. But where the evidence is clear, where the Bible speaks definitely and positively on a matter we believe that it is our duty to speak positively and definitely also. And in the passage and in many others we find that it is definitely taught that God wishes his servants to be ready at all times, not knowing when He may come. "Be ye ready for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

During the first two centuries of the history of the Christian church, the early Christians were constantly expecting that their Lord would soon return. If you take almost any book on the archaeology of Palestine, you will find it stated in it that it is difficult for us to know the place in Palestine where various events took place, because the early Christians were so sure that Christ would come back to this earth, and do great wonderful things after He came that they were not particularly interested in remembering the precise spot where things had happened before.