

He has us here, <sup>after we</sup> ~~on this earth~~ <sup>in Christ, not</sup> ~~as believers in Him in order to develop~~  
~~us in the way He wants to develop us,~~ <sup>(3)</sup> to develop <sup>(4)</sup> those qualities in us  
<sup>(6)</sup> that He desires us to have, <sup>and (1)</sup> ~~Not~~ only to have us do the work that He ~~wants~~  
<sup>(2)</sup> us to do in the world, <sup>(7)</sup> but also to prepare us for an eternity with Him, <sup>Therefore</sup>  
<sup>(9)</sup> so whatever He sends we can know <sup>(10)</sup> that it is part of His plan for us.  
<sup>(12)</sup> I am not thinking <sup>(11)</sup> this morning particularly about His plan for us in-  
 dividually, <sup>(13)</sup> but I'm thinking about His plan for the world. So I'd like to  
 rapidly look at Mat. 24:1-8. (Reading text . . . . .)

And if you look on through the rest of ch. 24-25 you will seem to find these verses contradicted. Because you will find that on at least half a dozen occasions in those two chapters, the Lord says, Be ye ready for ye know not when the Lord is coming. Be ready\* Be it at the morning, be it at noon, whenever it is, be ready! You don't know when He is coming. So the disciples went out preaching the gospel, reaching souls for the Lord, but expecting that very soon He would come back. Any book on church history will tell you that during that first century, during the first three centuries in fact, most <sup>Christians</sup> expected that at any time the Lord would come back; that He would come back very soon. And those promises in the latter part of ch. 24 and 25 are just as true today as they were then. The Lord might come for His own today. He might come tomorrow. He might come next year. He wants <sup>(8)</sup> us to be ready. He wants <sup>(14)</sup> us to find us faithful, to find us faithfully <sup>Serving</sup> Him, to find us developing ourselves ~~the~~ the way He wants us to develop and helping His people to develop in the knowledge of the <sup>as them</sup> Lord. ~~And~~ He wants <sup>(15)</sup> us to develop. He wants us to have that attitude and be ready, but He wants us also to know that the statements in the first part of Matthew, which I think the disciples sort of overlooked -- wars, rumors of wars will come, nations will rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom, famines, pestilence, earthquakes in many places -- that those things may just happen before the Lord comes.