

listed under "watch" shows that the meaning in various contexts fits exactly with less common renderings. Leaving temporarily to one side the cases where one is ordered to watch because he does not know the time of the Lord's return, the other instances make it perfectly clear that gregoreo does not, like tereo or paratereo, mean to gaze steadily at an object, or to look for signs that something is about to happen, but rather to be wide awake, vigilant, and active. When the disciples fell asleep at Gethsemane Jesus said to them, "Could ye not watch with me one hour?" In the context He did not mean that they should have been vigilantly looking for the coming of enemies or that they should have been gazing at him, but that they should have remained awake. It soon becomes evident that the commands to watch because one does not know the time of the Lord's return do not mean to keep looking for signs of His coming, but rather to be so active in His work that when He comes He will find us diligently and intelligently serving Him.

Learning the precise meaning of a word in a particular context is only part of the task of understanding a passage. There are also matters of syntax, including the significance of various verb forms. Here one is in an area in which knowledge of the original languages is essential. Yet with only a little knowledge of the usage of verb forms one can sometimes gain from the original an understanding that is extremely difficult to represent in a language so different as English.

It is sometimes said that the present tense in English runs as follows: "I go, you go, he goes," etc. This may have been so three hundred years ago, but is not true today. If one were to meet a boy on