

R 5

2 Timothy 3:1. There it is translated "come". "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." ^{does} Now/that mean that in the last days there will be perilous times or does it mean that in the last days perilous times will be ahead? Will be at hand? Quite clearly, it doesn't mean at hand there, it means present, and in the other five cases it is translated "present", not "at hand". We find it in Romans 8:38 "that neither things present nor things to come" can separate us from the love of Christ. It certainly doesn't mean things "at hand" there. Things present, or things to come. We find it in 1 Corinthians 3:22, 7:26, Galatians 1:4 and Hebrews 9:9, always translated present or things present, and that being the case, since it is always translated "present" elsewhere, you wonder why they translated it "at hand" in this one isolated case. It would seem to be the more natural translation to say, "Do not be shaken in mind, or troubled, or by spirit or word or letter as from us, that the day of Christ is right here." Somebody says to you, "Well, now, you--what's the use of your going around and trying to tell people about the Lord? Certainly, what's the use of trying to earn some money today for your living any more? The day of Christ is here. You go out on the hill top and greet Him. Put on the white garments and be ready. Give up everything. It's right here. Now, Paul said, "Don't do that." He said, "This is the time when the thing you are to do is to witness to the Lord." As Christ said, "The times and seasons the Father has in His own power." Your business is witnessing for the Lord." He says, "Don't let anybody deceive you and tell you that that time is right here now, because it isn't. You have a witness to do. You have a work to do, and, of course, in many passages, while He has told them to watch because we know not the day nor the hour, we have had these suggestions. There is a period; there is an interval. There is a long space of time during which they are to be watching because we don't know how long this space is, but there are nations rising against nations, kingdoms against kingdoms. Now, He says, don't let anybody deceive you. There must be a falling away first before the actual day of Christ appears, before these