

Being Rapture Ready

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For Discussion: Knowing Christ's Return Is Imminent, What Must We Do To Be Ready?

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<https://harbingersdaily.com/knowing-christs-return-is-imminent-what-must-we-do-to-be-ready/>

How does one prepare for the rapture?

Be ready...

Luke 21:28 – Now when these things begin to happen look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.

Jesus will indeed return, and when He does, look up because His return will be swift.

What are the “things” that begin to happen?

The “things” are the signs of the end times begin to occur as birth pangs.

What signs are we seeing that indicate the end of the Church Age may be near?

- Israel – back in the land, Hebrew language, peace efforts, invincible military, worldwide antisemitism
- Globalism versus Nationalism
- Technology for Mark of the Beast, WMD
- Wars, rumors of wars
- Earthquakes, wild weather, celestial signs
- Degeneration of society
- Apostasy of the church

So, what must one do to be ready for the rapture?

Luke 21:34-36 – take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

In this passage, Jesus gave us three specific things to do to “be ready” for His return in the clouds to rapture the Church up to Heaven.

What causes our hearts to be weighed down?

Sin causes our hearts to be weighed down. So, the number one thing to do is to **avoid sinning**.

- Christians obviously should be living a holy life as an ambassador of our Savior.

For those who have not yet placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, they are living a live a life of sin and are not ready for the rapture.

Why is it that unbelievers are not rapture ready?

Only true born-again believers in Jesus Christ will be taken in the rapture.

John 3:36 – He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him

Once a person recognizes their natural condition before God and accepts the provision Jesus made for them to have eternal life, their sins are forgiven.

- This imputed righteousness enables them to stand before God blameless and holy, no longer under His wrath.

What else is necessary to be ready for Jesus’ return?

To watch for His return. This is actually a command and those who are not watching are being disobedient.

What are people doing when they ridicule watching for Jesus’ return?

They are actually fulfilling prophecy and contributing to the apostasy of the church...

2 Peter 3:3-4 – scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?”

One of the symptoms of apostasy is to deny the promises of God. While scoffing may start out as a disputable matter, it reveals a deeper problem in not recognizing the inspired nature of God’s Word and opens one up to heretical doctrines of demons.

How do we watch for Jesus’ return?

The word translated “watch” means “to have the alertness of a guard at night.”

- A night watchman must be more vigilant than a daytime guard. In the daytime, danger can often be spotted from a distance. But a night watchman must use senses other than sight to detect danger.

What can distract us from watching?

We are easily distracted by this world, our fleshly needs and desires, and the schemes of the enemy:

2 Cor 2:11 – lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices

When we take our eyes from Jesus and His soon return, our values begin to shift, our attention wanders, and soon we are living like the world and bearing little fruit for God's kingdom...

1 Timothy 6:17 – Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

Jesus warned us that we must be ready at any moment to stand before Him and give an account of our lives...

Romans 14:12 – each of us shall give account of himself to God

What is the third thing our passage in Luke 21 tells us is necessary to be ready for Jesus' return?

To pray that we may escape these things that will come to pass.

What sort of things should we pray to escape?

Since we are living in evil times, we should pray to escape evil. Pray for the Lord to protect you, your family, your church, your friends, and your nation.

- We need all the protection we can get living in these dark days.

Why is prayer so important?

We can only remain faithful when we are devoted to prayer. In prayer, we continually allow God to forgive us, cleanse us, teach us, and strengthen us to obey Him (John 14:14).

- In order to keep watch, we must pray for endurance and freedom from distractions (Hebrews 12:2; Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18).

Why pray always that you are worthy?

If you are saved, isn't our escape a settled matter?

Our escaping evil isn't just a reference to escaping the Tribulation via the rapture. There will be birth pangs that will give us plenty of tribulation (small "t").

Since we have eternal security, why pray that you may be counted worthy?

Eternal security means that once a person has placed their faith in Jesus Christ, their salvation is secure forever. However, this security does not mean that believers are free to live without spiritual vigilance.

- The call to "pray always that you may be counted worthy" refers to the believer's need to remain spiritually alert and faithful in their daily walk with God.

What does it mean to pray always?

This brings to mind the command in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "pray without ceasing."

- This obviously does not mean non-stop talking with God, but rather an attitude of God-consciousness that we have all the time.

Every waking moment is to be lived in an awareness that God is with us and that He is actively involved and engaged in our thoughts and actions.

What should trigger our talking with God?

When our thoughts turn to worry, fear, discouragement, and anger, we are to consciously and quickly turn every thought into prayer and every prayer into thanksgiving.

Philippians 4:6 – in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God

What is the problem with not praying?

A lack of prayer will cause us to depend on ourselves instead of depending on God's grace.

- Unceasing prayer is, in essence, continual dependence upon and communion with the Father.

How should prayer be like breathing for Christians?

As we do not have to think to breathe, prayer should likewise come to Christians just as readily.

- Just as it is harder to hold your breath than to breathe, it should be harder to not pray about things than to pray.

If we are to be ready for Jesus' return, in what is our hope?

Our hope is in Him and His faithfulness to His promise:

John 14:3 – I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also

His coming again for us is the rapture of the church and thus this is our "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13).

- Knowing that Christians will not have to face the worst period in all human history, the Tribulation, is meant to provide us hope for today.

Why is the rapture called our blessed hope?

The rapture is our resurrection; it is the beginning of our eternal life in the presence of God.

- The rapture is also a source of comfort, “*comfort one another with these words*” (1 Thess 4:18)

The rapture is our blessed hope because it is the sure, joyful expectation of being united with Christ, rescued from judgment, and receiving glorified bodies, which brings comfort, encouragement, and motivation for holy living.

How does our blessed hope give us motivation for holy living?

1 John 3:2-3 – *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

The rapture is imminent meaning it can happen at any time without warning. Christians seek to please God in all things and do not want to be in the middle of something that would embarrass them before the Lord when He returns.

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- Being rapture ready means being born-again, avoiding sin, watching and praying.
- Our blessed hope is in Jesus and His promise to return for us.