

# THE GET READY SERIES

HOW THE BELIEVER IS TO BE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS AND WHY GOD REQUIRES OF US TO BE READY AT ALL TIMES  
MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JHX429 SUNDAY JANUARY 7, 2018

## THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### Let's Go

HOW THE BELIEVER IS TO BE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS AND WHY GOD REQUIRES US TO BE READY AT ALL TIMES

## SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Last Days, Perseverance, Doctrine, Expectancy, Rapture, Prophecy.

## Introduction and overview to the series

**Church, Heaven, Eternity, Salvation, Faith, Works, Community.**

### 1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:11

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words. **5:1** But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. **2** For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. **3** For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. **5** You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. **6** Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. **8** But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. **:11** Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

### **In his classic work "The Coming King" A.W. Tozer writes;**

*In the evangelical church there has always been the expectant hope of Christ soon return to earth based on His own stated promises. The record is clear: many times during His earthly ministry, Jesus declared that He would come again to intervene in human history. From the first century of the Christian era*

*to this present day, every generation of believers has expressed its hope for, and expectation of, Christ's return. Wherever sincere Bible students turn in the New Testament, they find continual reminders that an overwhelming "Day of the Lord" is coming and that, it is in fact, imminent. Who can ignore Jesus' own words on the subject when He said; "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

### **The Coming King by A.W. Tozer**

1 Peter 4:7

But the end of all things **is at hand**;  
**therefore** be **serious** and **watchful** in your **prayers**.

### **Compounding Exhortation Here**

Grk: Serious / So'phro'neo; to be sober or of a sound mind. To be temperate: displaying good judgment. To employ a discerning, sensible mind. To think properly. to think the matter through to the end.

Grk: Watchful / Ne'pho; to abstain from wine. To never allow yourself to be under the influence, control of something or anyone other than God.

Grk: Prayer / pros-yoo-hay; to talk to God. a place set apart or suited for the offering of prayer. A synagogue. Church. A place designated in the open air. A place outside of a city.

**Alfred Edersheim, March 7, 1825 – March 16, 1889**

"Ancient Jews were known to pray in such places where they would situate themselves upon the bank of a stream or river or along the shore of a lake or sea. There they would wash their hands in water so they might lift their hands in prayer."

They made preparations to meet with God and so each and every one of us are to do the same in this New Year.

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**1.) You will need to expect the unexpected**

**vs. 1-2**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-2**

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. **2** For you yourselves **know** perfectly that **The Day of the Lord** so comes as a thief in the night.

# You will need to expect the unexpected

## 1a.) You can expect great hope

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren,  
**you have no need** that I should write to you.

This opening verse speaks of a coming “advent of times” that are to arrive.  
But concerning (this is something different from chapter 4)  
The times and the seasons, brethren  
This is a mandate, a command, an order

The coming “advent of times” means that there will be a clustering of events.  
But concerning the **times** // concerning the **seasons**

The word “**times**” is the word **chronos** which means  
to watch for, focus on, make note of, with the intent to “mark the time”  
as it counts down, not up.

And the word “**seasons**” **kairos** which means  
an obvious shift or a clear sense or an awareness of a change.  
to feel a marked difference in the air (spiritually)

### Clarification is needed here

2,000 years ago when Jesus was commissioning His disciples, He made  
something very clear to them. He told them they had work to do  
and ground to cover.

#### Acts 1:7-8

And He said to them, “It is not for you to know **times** or **seasons** which the  
Father has put in His own authority. 8 But **you shall receive power** when the  
Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses** to Me in  
Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the end of the earth.**”

### This fact is undeniable which is:

Events and Happenings and Dynamics will Announce the End of Days.

This verse demands that every Christian be aware of his surroundings  
and his timing in it.

**You can expect great hope because  
There’s a greater plan at work in you and for you**

This **“you have no need”** carries with it a twofold application.

**#1** – The “times and seasons” of the end – these post events of the Rapture in **1Thessalonians 4** have nothing to do with you.

**#2** the events that follow the Rapture – **“you have no need to be concerned about things that do not affect you”**

## **You will need to expect the unexpected**

### **1b.) You can expect to be taught of God**

**2** For you yourselves **know perfectly** that **The Day of the Lord** so comes as a thief in the night.

*“From this, we immediately know that Paul is not speaking about the Christian who himself is looking for Jesus Christ to appear – Paul is speaking about those who are not.”*

**2** For you yourselves **know perfectly**

#### **Paul is Saying;**

“I want to make you aware of something that every believer is already aware of – you will not endure the coming wrath of God”  
The events of God’s judgment and His wrath that is coming to a Christ-hating, Christ-rejecting world doesn’t apply to the Christian!  
Yes, we will all have great **difficulties**. We will all have great **challenges**.

#### **1 Peter 4:12-14**

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

In the Technical sense, **“The Day of the Lord”** is that Day that is coming upon the entire world when Jesus Christ returns to earth in flaming vengeance and in His wrath upon His enemies.

It will be **The Day** of His military victory and His ministry mission in defense of His people Israel.

### **Isaiah 13:9-11**

Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. 11 “I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity;

### **Jeremiah 46:10**

For this is the day of the Lord God of hosts, a day of vengeance, that He may avenge Himself on His adversaries.

By the way – **The Day of the LORD** has a prerequisite in the Bible.

### **Joel 3:2b**

And I (the LORD) will enter into judgment with them there on account (for this reason) of **My people, My heritage Israel**, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land.

### **Notice Here:**

That there is a subtle but powerful theological nugget that is tucked within this End Times admonition and it appears by way of a “Contrary or an Apparent Contradiction”

(in verses 2&3) You are in the know but they do not **know!**

(in verses 4&5) You are in the light but they are **not!**

(in verses 6&7) You are awake but they are **sleeping!**

(in verses 8-11) you possess salvation but they are **lost!**

Brethren, **you have no need** that I should write to you.

The days that trigger the awareness will be so obvious to the true child of God that you will not need any special revelation or elite insights.

### **Esther is an Old Testament example for us today**

#### **Esther 4:14c**

Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

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**2.) You will need to keep your love burning**

**vs. 3-8**

**Every Christian from every generation throughout the ages have all lived** under the exhortation to maintain a personal altar where our love for God is kept burning. I believe this is the greatest challenge for every Christian. Not because God is not worthy of our love, but because our hearts are so desperately wicked and so prone to wandering away from him toward things.

**3** For when **they** say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon **them**, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And **they** shall not escape.

**This is almost unbelievable.**

At the time of the end there'll be those who will have access to the word of God. Who will have seen Global catastrophes. Who will have experienced the rise of the antichrist and the plethora a false prophets and teachers – yet they themselves will fail to recognize and to identify what the Bible had warned them against. These will be the ungodly and wicked of the tribulation.

**Such a deception the world has never known but is about** to experience in the coming Times and Seasons that the Bible warns about.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

**1 Timothy 4:1-2**

Now the Spirit expressly says that in Latter Times **some** (professors) will depart from the **faith**, (why?) giving **heed** (audience) to **deceiving** (seductive, irresistible) spirits and **doctrines** (aberrants) of **demons**, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having **their** own conscience seared with a hot iron,

**4** But **you, brethren**, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake **you** as a thief. **5** **You** are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. **6** Therefore let **us** not sleep, as others do, but let **us** watch and be sober.

The return of Jesus Christ for us **will not be** “Like a thief in the Night” because we are looking for Him.

**Luke 12:35-40**

“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that

when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. 38 And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. 39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 40 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

**7** For **those** who sleep, sleep at night, and **those** who get drunk are drunk at night. **8** But let **us** who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

**Our love for the person of who Jesus is ought to be**  
our motivation for **wanting** Him, **expecting** Him and **longing** for Him.

**H.A. Ironside writes;**

“Current events of this world should never generate more “curiosity” about End Time events. When we hear or see some great earthquake or war or some news event regarding Israel - we must not allow ourselves to become curious about Bible Prophecy - - we ought to become encouraged about the fact that whatever the event might be should serve us as a reminder that we are one step closer to seeing Jesus face to face.

Luke 12:35

“**Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning;** 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.

Jude 1:20

**But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith,** praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Matthew 24:43

**But know this,** that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 **Therefore you also be ready,** for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

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#### 3.) You will need to make every effort to be a disciple

vs. 9-11

#### Luke 18:8c

Nevertheless, when the Son of Man returns,  
will He find faith on the earth?"

**9** For God did not appoint **us** to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for **us**, that whether **we** wake or sleep, **we** should live **together** with Him. **:11** Therefore comfort **each other** and edify **one another**, just as **you** also are doing.

*And here; the apostle lets us in on what it was like  
to be part of the 1<sup>st.</sup> century church*

**They were exhorted to comfort each other.  
They were exhorted to edify one another.  
They were exhorted to continue at it.**

**“CHURCH IS WHAT PEOPLE ARE, NOT WHAT A BUILDING IS.”**

**Notice that wherever His people are, is where He is.**

“I do not mean that if you're hospitalized, imprisoned, banished, or a shut-in that Jesus Christ is not with you, He is with you – but what I am saying is that He is not with you if you're avoiding being together with God's people when God has provided you the freedom and opportunity to meet together.”

**When He said “Come and follow me” - it's what and where you will be His people following Him. That is called Church.**

#### **WARNING: DANGER AHEAD**

This year - every single one of us **will be tempted** to ditch church.  
This year – every one of us **will be offered** the opportunity to compromise.

#### Hebrews 10:25

Not **forsaking** (to gently let slip through or to eventually lose your grip) the assembling of ourselves together, (ie. Church) as is the manner of some, but **exhorting** (parakaleo, to come alongside and to urge with urgency, to sound the alarm) one another, and so much the more as you (who? Only those who are looking) see the Day approaching.



### **1 Peter 4:7-10**

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

### **Matthew 25:1-13**

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps (they each illumination) and went out to meet the bridegroom. (they all had belief) 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them (failing to prepare), 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. (they lived their lives as they must) :6 “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise answered, saying, “No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and (those who were ready) went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. :11 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ 12 But he answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ :13 (and here is the application which is the point) “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (be prepared to go the long-haul)

## **Why is the effort to be unified so important?**

For one reason – it is to advance the message of the kingdom, the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all we come in contact with.

## **It is not to make you feel better or to make you happy**

about yourself. Church isn’t a group of people formed to rally around you or are to be your personal cheerleaders in all things “you”.

Yes you will be nurtured in the Word. Yes you will be taught how to pray and yes you will be invited to serve. We will point you to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit - - but when all is said and done, it will all come down to; just you and Jesus with us.

## **I am going to invite you to come and die with**

me today. To die to the things that separate us from God’s perfect will and plan for our lives.

**I'm asking you today to turn yourself in  
to the Authority, to God, and to say with me...**

*End of Study*

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