



WATCHING, WAITING & WORKING

MARCH 17, 2024

THE FULL PICTURE OF BEING READY FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

- » We need to _____ watch for His return.
(THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SERVANTS – MATTHEW 24:45-51)
- » We need to _____ wait for His return.
(THE PARABLE OF THE TEN BRIDESMAIDS – MATTHEW 25:1-13)
- » We need to _____ work until His return.
(THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS – MATTHEW 25:14-30)

We need to be _____ at any time for our death as well as for the Lord's imminent return — we will stand before Him in _____ either way.
HEBREWS 9:27

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUBJECT

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-58; 2 THESSALONIANS 3:10-15

All of us will struggle with cultivating the proper _____ between the three perspectives — watching, waiting, and working — but the Lord calls us to be _____ in maintaining all three.

THE STEWARDSHIP WE'RE GIVEN

MATTHEW 25:14-30

TALENT = an ancient _____ of weight and money used by many civilizations; came to mean an "ability or skill" based on the Parable of the Talents.

- ① _____: in line with our abilities and _____.
- ② _____: reveals our true _____.
- ③ _____: we will be summoned to give _____.
- ④ _____ or condemnation: _____ slips away with each passing moment.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. If someone loaned you ten million dollars and you had to pay it back in ten years, what would you do with it?
2. Read Matthew 25:14-30. What arrangements did the master make before leaving on his journey? The master "entrusted" his property to his servants. What does it mean to be entrusted with something?
3. When the master returns, how does he show his approval and reward the good and faithful servants? How does the third servant misunderstand the character of his master?
4. As you look at the statements of the three servants, what can you infer about their relationships with their master? How might their relationships have affected their actions in verses 16-18?
5. Compare the reactions of the master to the first and second servants (vv. 19-23). What matters to him, and what doesn't matter?
6. What resources, abilities, and responsibilities has Jesus given you? How can you handle them in a good and faithful manner?