

אֲנִי מְבַרְכֵם בְּיְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ
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Luke 12:41-48

F A I T H F U L

Matthew

24:46-51

Matthew 24:43-51

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. 45 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing

Matthew 24:43-51

47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

One unlit
night can
cost ships
their lives.





**LET OUR
LAMP BE
BURNING**



Oscar Cullmann

Ein Leben für Theologie,
Kirche und Ökumene



**“already”
and
“not yet.”**

TVZ

The Uncertainty of the Hour

Matthew 24:36

*“But of that day
and hour no one
knows, not even
the angels
of heaven, but My
Father only.”*



Matthew 24:43-44

1. The Thief in the Night.

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.



Matthew 24:43

But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come,





The Lord's coming is often likened to the coming of a thief.

JESUS WILL RETURN WITH HIS ANGELS IN FLAMING FIRE LIKE A

THIEF
IN THE NIGHT

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

2 Peter

3:10

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Revelation 3:3

*Remember therefore
how you have
received and heard;
hold fast
and repent. Therefore
if you will not watch,
I will come upon you as
a thief, and you will
not know what hour I
will come upon you.*



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.

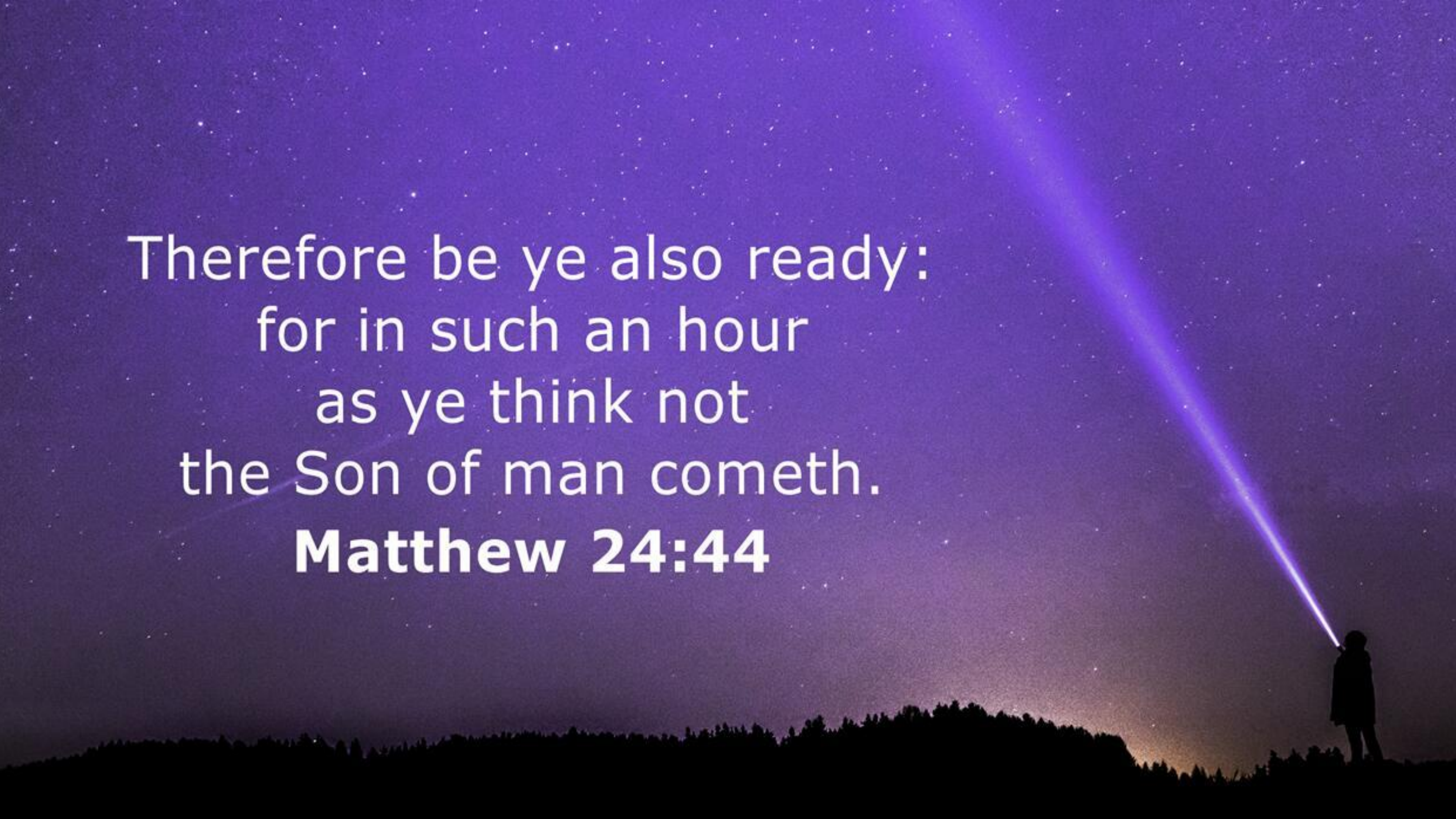


1 Thessalonians

5:2

For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.



A person is silhouetted against a starry night sky, holding a flashlight that illuminates the text. The background is a deep blue and purple night sky filled with stars. The person is standing on a dark, silhouetted horizon line, possibly a hill or a ridge. The flashlight beam is a bright, glowing line that points towards the text.

Therefore be ye also ready:
for in such an hour
as ye think not
the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 24:44

A close-up photograph of a clock face. The clock has a white dial with black numbers and hands. The hour hand is a dark blue color, and the minute hand is a bright orange color. The clock is slightly out of focus, with the background being a soft, light blue.

Matthew

24:42

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

First Watch (“beginning of the watches”)

Lamentations 2:19

*Arise, cry out in the night,
at the beginning of the
watches...”*

Sunset 6 PM to about 10 PM



***Middle Watch –
10 PM to about 2 AM***

Judges 7:19

“Gideon and the hundred men... came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch...”

***Morning Watch – 2 AM
to sunrise 6 AM***

Exodus 14:24, 1 Samuel 11:11,

“Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked...”

“The Lord thundered... in the morning watch.”

First Watch (“evening”) – 6 PM–9 PM

Second Watch (“midnight”) – 9 PM–12 AM

Third Watch (“cockcrowning”) – 12 AM–3 AM

Fourth Watch (“dawn”) – 3 AM–6 AM





Ezekiel 33:1–6





***“Burglars
strike at 2am.”***

Matthew 24:44

*Therefore you
also be ready, for
the Son of Man is
coming at an
hour you do not
expect.*





**Greek word
“Gregorio”**

**stay awake,
alert, and
watchful.**

Mark 14:38

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”



A lit lantern is positioned on the left side of the image, casting a warm glow. The background is a close-up of a wood fire, with glowing embers and logs. The overall atmosphere is cozy and warm.

Matthew 24:44

*Therefore you
also be ready, for
the Son of Man is
coming at an
hour you do not
expect.*



***Unexpected hour:
Kingdom urgency:***

A close-up photograph of a person's hand pressing a pink key on a white computer keyboard. The key has the word "Ready?" written on it in red. The keyboard is on a wooden desk. In the background, there is a black pen, a stack of colorful sticky notes (yellow, pink, purple, green), and other keyboard keys like "delete", "enter", "return", "alt", "option", and "command".

Ready?

“Be Ready”



Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—

Mark 13:35

1 Thessalonians

5:22–23

*Abstain from every form of evil.
23 Now may the God of peace
Himself sanctify you
completely; and may your
whole spirit, soul, and body be
preserved blameless at the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*





Acts 20:31

Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

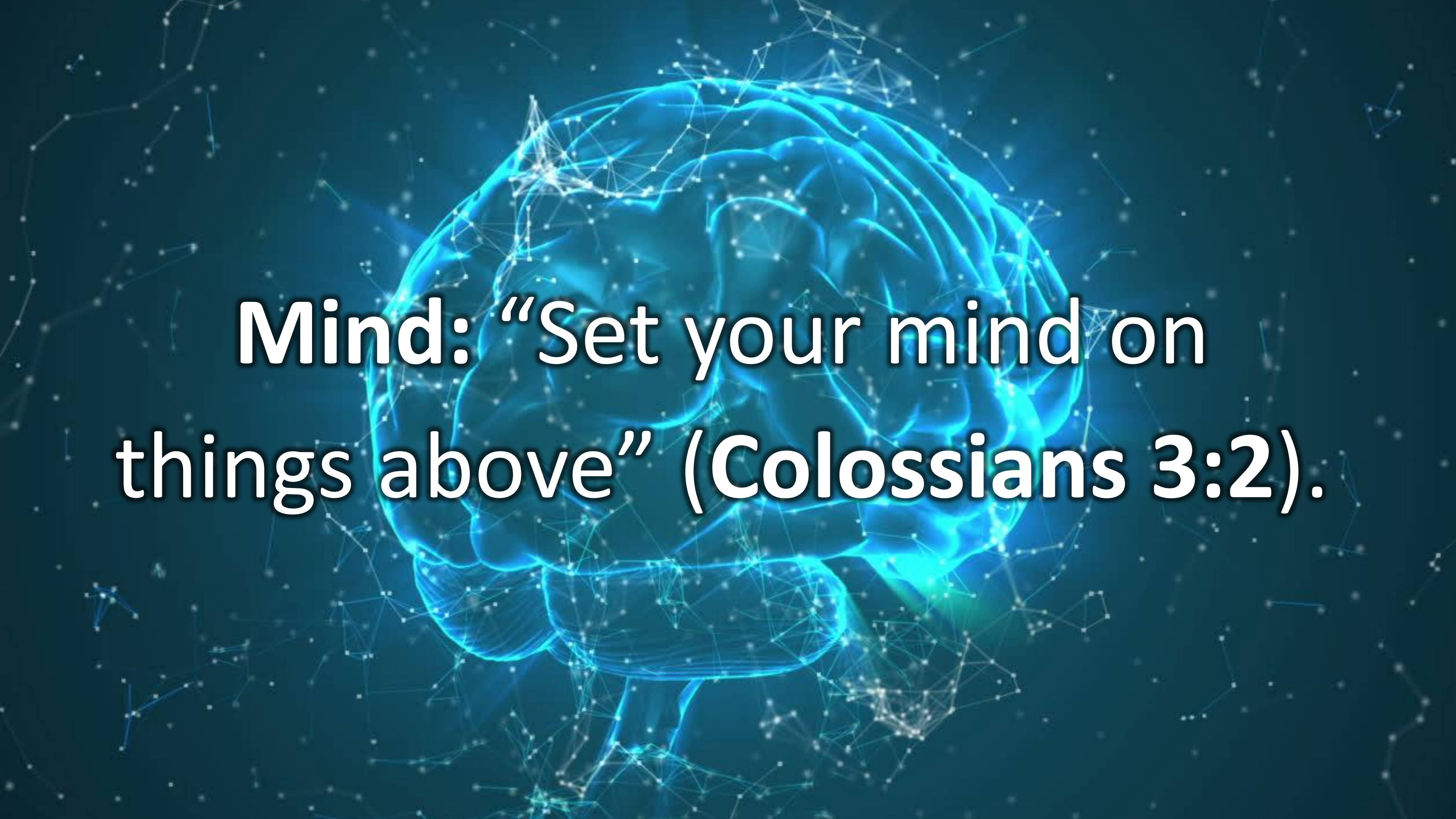
James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

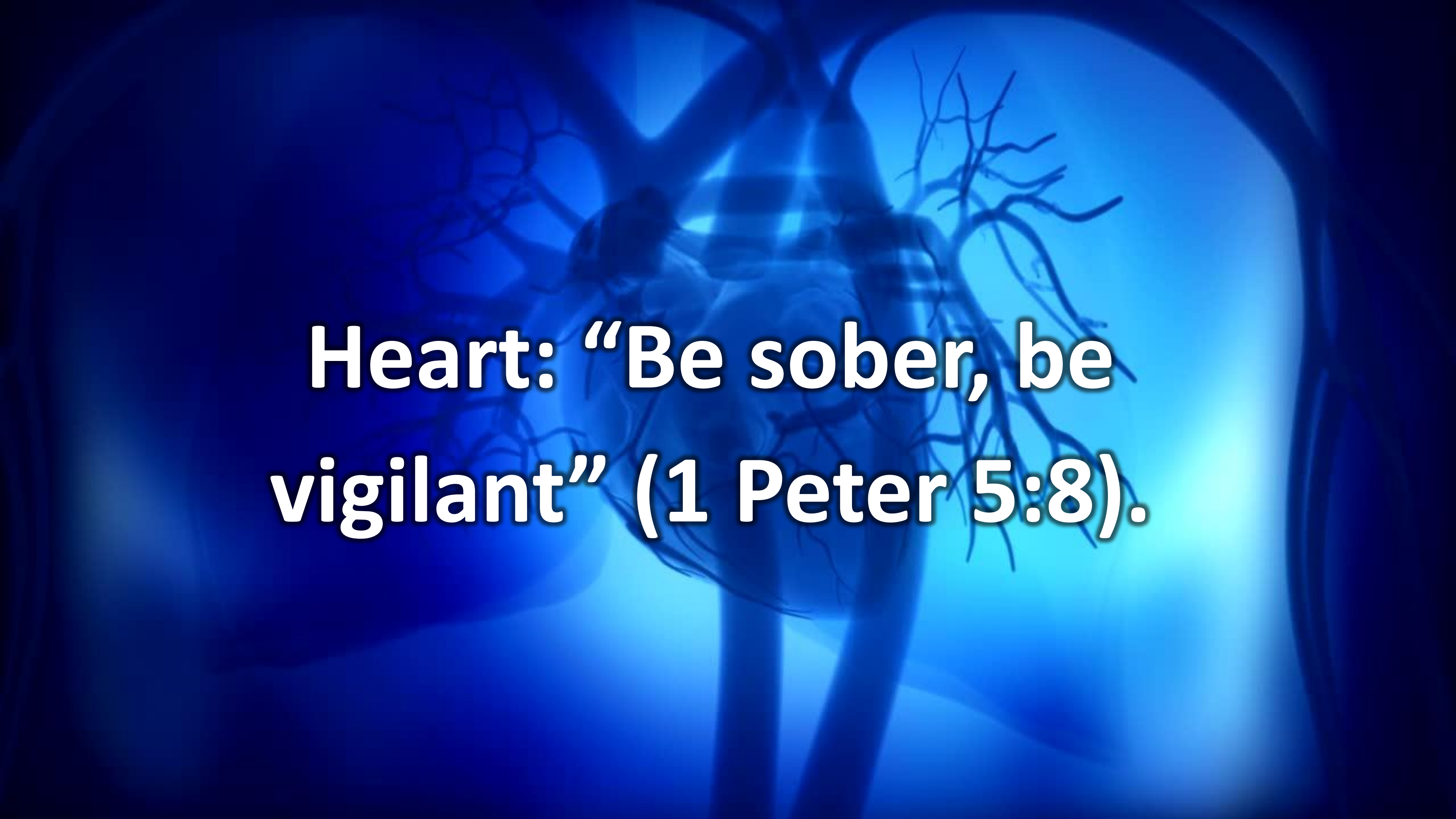


A night-shift nurse keeps her pager on





Mind: “Set your mind on things above” (Colossians 3:2).



Heart: “Be sober, be vigilant” (1 Peter 5:8).



**Hands: “Serve
wholeheartedly, as to the
Lord” (Colossians 3:23).**

The Faithful and Wise Servant.

Matthew 24:45



“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?”

Matthew

24:46

Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.



Matthew 24:47

*Assuredly, I say to you
that he will make him
ruler over all his
goods.*



Revelation 3:21

*To him who
overcomes I will
grant to sit with Me
on My throne, as I
also overcame and
sat down with My
Father on His throne.*



The Evil Servant's Downfall

Matthew 24:48–51

But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,⁵¹ and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



**lamps were
not trimmed**

Matthew 25





**“The evil servant”
kakos,**

**“says in his own
heart, My lord
delays his coming”**

Matthew 24:51

and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



**The Greek verb
is dichotomeo,
“dichotomized.”**



Exodus 29:17

Then you shall cut the ram in pieces, wash its entrails and its legs, and put them with its pieces and with its head.





Septuagint

the cutting in half of an animal when an animal was offered in sacrifice and cut into two pieces.

1 Thessalonians

5:2-3

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 labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.



1 Thessalonians

5:4

*But you, brethren,
are not in
darkness, so that
this Day should
overtake you as a
thief.*



Three Hallmarks of Faithfulness



Attentiveness: Psalm 1:2–3





Dependability

Luke 12:42; Luke 16:10

Anticipation



The Reward of Diligence



A photograph of two men in business attire sitting at a desk in an office. The man on the left is seen from the side, looking towards the man on the right. The man on the right is looking back at him. The background is a bright, out-of-focus office space with windows. A small red horizontal line is positioned above the first text block.

**Immediate Joy:
Matthew 25:21**

**Expanded Authority:
Matthew 24:47**

**Eternal Fellowship:
Luke 12:37**

Embrace Your Stewardship



A man in a dark blue suit and white shirt is running through a modern, brightly lit hallway. He has a determined and slightly stressed expression. The background shows a long, open-plan office space with large windows and modern decor. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "There is a hurry" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

There is a hurry

Romans 13:11-14

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.



It Is Time To
AWAKE
Out Of Your Sleep

A photograph of four people running in profile from left to right against a bright, clear sky. The runners are dressed in athletic wear. A semi-transparent white banner with red text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

**Be faithful to His command and His Word
and the stewardship He has given us.**