

XXI. The Challenges for His Return

*Watching & Waiting.*

A. The Challenge for precaution (Luke 21:34)

1. The precept - "take heed to yourselves"
2. The particulars - "lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with..."
  - a. Carnality - "surfeiting" (*giving yourself to the appetite of the flesh*)
  - b. Carousing - "drunkenness"
  - c. Cares - "cares of this life"
3. The purpose - "so that day come upon you unawares"

B. The Challenge for patience (James 5:7-8)

*James 1:2+3*

1. The exhortation - "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord"
2. The example *condemnat the reckless*
  - a. The practice of Waiting - "Behold, the husbandman waiteth...and hath long patience"
  - b. The purpose of Waiting - "for the precious fruit of the earth"
  - c. The providence in Waiting - "until he receive the early and latter rain"
3. The establishing - "Be ye also patient; *set or fix firmly* establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh"

C. The Challenge for preparation (1 John 2:28)

1. The abiding - "abide in him" (*fellowship*)
2. The assurance - "that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence"
3. The ashamedness - "and not be ashamed before him at his coming"
  - a. The possibility of Shame - "ashamed before him"
  - b. The place of Shame - "before him"
  - c. The period of Shame - "when he shall appear...at his coming"

*Behold - look intently & consider*