Let us be ready when Jesus comes.

1. Jesus is coming. The Lord’s warning is that we are not to be distracted from the day of His coming.

   “Concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matthew 24:36-39 ESV).

   In Noah’s day and age, God would destroy the entire earth because of sin.

   The people were indifferent.

   As the days of Noah were, so is our world.

   Are we ready? There is nothing wrong with eating and drinking, marrying, giving in marriage, and enjoying all the other blessings of life on this earth. But we have to be watchful, so that these things do not distract and blind us to the Lord’s coming.

   Jesus says, “Watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap” (Luke 21:34 ESV).

   There is a 50 percent chance that Jesus will come today. In other words, either He will come today or He won’t.

2. Rather than being caught unprepared as the people of Noah’s time, we are to watch and be ready when the Son of Man comes.

   Jesus says, “Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (vv. 42-44).

   The master of the house failed to keep watch. He should have kept watch at all times. The consequences of not keeping watch, not expecting the unexpected: a disastrous loss. The Lord’s coming will be a disaster for those who do not keep watch. Rather, we need to be ready, alert, and constantly prepared.

   There is only one thing to do: “Be ready.” How can we be ready? St. John encourages us, “And now, dear children, continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming” (1 John 2:28).

3. The Lord Jesus grants us salvation. The Lord Jesus tells us that we do not have to fear Jesus’ return. “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32 ESV).

   Jesus came the first time so that we could be watching and waiting for His return at the end of time. He came in great humility so that He could be under God’s Law and fulfill it for us with His own holy life. He laid down that life on the cross to free us from the penalty of our sin. Everyone who believes in Him is pronounced righteous by God.

   Faith in the Lord Jesus moves us to serve the Lord, rather than live for ourselves.

   Jesus is coming. Don’t be preoccupied with the affairs of this life, but be conscious of the significance of the Day of Judgment. Look to your gracious Savior Jesus for life and salvation. Watch and be ready.