

## Are You Ready for Christmas?

The only way to ensure you are ready for Christmas is to be ready for His Return.

### Luke 12:40

People who are ready for their Lord's return are:

#### I. SINCERE, NOT HYPOCRITICAL LUKE 12:1-3

1. Trying to appear holy when their heart is far from God.
2. Their selfishness would act like yeast, and soon:
  - a. they would expose themselves for what they really were
  - b. power- hungry impostors, not devoted religious leaders.
3. Each of us must resist the temptation to settle for:
  - a. the appearance of respectability
  - b. when our hearts are far from God

#### II. READY TO WITNESS, NOT FEARFUL Luke 12:4-9

1. Too often we cling to peace and comfort, even at the cost of our walk with God!
2. **We deny Jesus when we:**
  - a. are silent about our relationship with God
  - b. Blend into society, and
  - c. accept our culture's non-Christian values.
3. **We acknowledge him when we**
  - a. live a moral, upright, Christ-honoring life
  - b. look for opportunities to share our faith with others
  - c. use our life and resources to carry out his desires rather than your own.

#### III. TRUSTING, NOT WORRIED Luke 12:22-26

1. Jesus commands us not to worry!
2. Only faith can free us from anxiety
3. Worry is pointless – because it can't fill any of our needs!
4. Worry is foolish – because the Father loves us and knows what we need.
5. He has promised to meet our need!

#### IV. GENEROUS, NOT GREEDY Luke 12:34

1. Where do you put your time, money, and energy?
2. What do you think about most?

#### VI. LOYAL TO THEIR COMMITMENT, NOT SELF-SERVING Matthew 24:42-44

1. Recognizing your fault and changing your ways are two different things.
  - a. Recognizing your sin leads to confession! [Admittance of guilt]
  - b. Repentance leads to changing your ways! [A Committed decision that is carried out!]
2. Repentance is a daily activity. [Required daily because we sin daily!]  
*"A Christian is not one who never goes wrong, but one who is enabled to repent and begin over again after each stumble-because of the inner working of Christ."*

– C.S. Lewis

#### V. DILIGENT, NOT LAZY Luke 12:35-38

1. Diligence requires discipline.
2. Only those who endure till the end will be rewarded.

ARE YOU READY FOR CHRISTMAS?  
ARE YOU READY FOR CHRIST'S RETURN?