**SINGING:** 387: 1,4,5 – 428: 7 – 243: 1,2,3,13 – 217 - 362

**READING:** Exodus 20: 1 – 17; Mark 13: 24 – 37

 **THE NECESSITY OF WATCHFULNESS**

 *By the late Rev. A. Verhagen*

Text: Mark 13: 37

*“And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”*

**From Christ’s command**

* Let us for a moment take notice of the context of our

text. Then we see that the Saviour, with His disciples,

came from the temple as was His custom.

* The Saviour begins to call their attention to the

necessity of watchfulness.

Everyone knows what it is to watch.

* Tell me, who thinks of this? Do we not, by nature, put

these things far from us?

* Watching is not a work of pleasure.

Watching is performed under sorrowful circumstances.

* When the Lord, by His Spirit, comes to discover to man

his guilt, he learns to cry out, “I am distressed because

of sin,” and the welfare of his soul weighs as lead.

* That watching remains necessary by virtue of God’s

command.

**From the deep-rooted inclination of our nature.**

* Could we but have more need of Him to be aroused

out of that spiritual sleep, people of the Lord in our

midst.

**From the temptations where we are surrounded by daily.**

* Satan lies in wait for our fall if it were possible to

even deceive the elect of God. So we see the watching

with God’s child declining.

* Thus Satan comes as an angel of light for the purpose

of depriving the child of God of watchfulness.

* We are not yet to the end and how will we get through

the world? How will we be delivered from ourselves?

**The approach of the Divine judgments**

* Our heart is filled with fear, for we may not and cannot

believe that under these circumstances the judgments

shall stay away.

* In the future I see as it were a large sieve wherein the

Church of God shall be sieved as grain.

* Then all idols shall fall away.
* How much has the Lord already laboured upon us.

Shall all that labour and all the warnings of parents,

friends or servants of the Lord been in vain?

* Sin is no longer sin. That God would awaken us to join in the battle in God’s strength.
* But to those who watching, looking for the coming of

the Bridegroom, the welcome word of the King shall

resound: “Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the

kingdom prepared for you.”

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.