



## *My Agenda for an "End Times" Seminar*

*"Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

*Luke 21:34-36*

*Certainly one of the intended uses of End Times prophecy is as a tool of evangelism to reach the unsaved. But don't you find it telling that whenever God spoke through anyone regarding the End Times in either Testament, that the audience to whom He was directly speaking always consisted of Believers? Nearly every Word of God concerning the End Times, including that given through Christ Himself, contains practical application for how Believers are supposed to live and conduct themselves during those times. And in truth, the way Believers are required to live and behave during the very Last Days is actually no different than how they're supposed to live and behave each every ordinary day of their life.*

Here Jesus summarizes for the Believer how they are to live out the information He has just provided in what we call the "Olivet Discourse", Christ's own teaching on the End Times. Notice that the very first warning to *"be on guard"* is not advising us to be aware of the signs of the times, but to *"not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life"*. In other words, we're first and foremost to be on guard where it concerns our personal

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faithfulness and to live exclusively according to God's ways, consciously rejecting the world's ways and cares. We can't see His ways if we're more concerned with our ways; we can't discern His will coming to fruition if we're more concerned with our own desires; we can't be spiritually sober if we've allowed the cares of this present life to seduce us. We'll only be able to recognize the signs of the times to the degree that our heart and deeds are devoted to Him alone.

When James closes out his letter, the last chapter is exclusively devoted to teaching how Believers should live in the End Times; and he doesn't mention a single sign or wonder! He begins with a warning as to what will happen to those who have trusted in their personal wealth and pleasure to the exclusion of the more valuable things of the kingdom.

*You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.*  
*James 5:5*

He continues with an admonition to not just wait patiently for Christ's return, but to continue steadfast in the work of the kingdom.

*Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.*  
*James 5:7-8*

And James reminds us that the quality of being sin-free is one of the most important possessions to have in such times. Putting God's Word into practice is how biblical righteousness is achieved, the very thing which distinguishes His true followers from all others during such times.

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*  
*James 5:16*

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He concludes with showing us the most important action we can take in the End Times, when spiritual darkness will be at its all-time height: restoring the backslidden to Christ so as to reduce the multiplying effect of sin.

*My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*

*James 5:19-20*

Paul admonishes us again through the Thessalonian church not just to be alert, but to prove so by continuing to employ the very qualities every Christian is supposed to be devoted to each and every “normal” day of their life.

*But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having **put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.** For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. **Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.***

*1 Thessalonians 5:8-11*

Peter affirms the same teaching as James and Paul in his own summary of how the Believer should live in the knowledge and presence of the Last Days.

*The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*

*1 Peter 4:7-8*

The word “faith” can also be translated “faithfulness”. When the Bible speaks of faith, it’s always in combination with one’s actions to be obedient to God’s Word and ways. It’s not merely believing in something, but belief that is visibly evident because of personal obedience to God’s Word. This is why when it comes to the ultimate

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test of whether or not a Believer has succeeded to live according to God's Word and ways during the Last Days, Jesus states, *"However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"* (Luke 18:8) Another way to state it is will He find faithfulness? Will He find His people living according to His Word and ways or having abandoned them for the cares of this world or according to the false belief that they should live differently in the End Times than during any other age of history?

This is why any seminar I personally organized on the End Times would probably be poorly attended, because it would be a giant prayer meeting focusing on repentance of sins and returning Believers to walking exclusively according to God's Word and ways alone. (I think they call such things a "revival".) I'm not saying the signs, events, and symbols of biblical prophecy shouldn't be studied or preached, but that proper priority first be given to the quality of individual faithfulness, the one thing which allows a person to recognize and endure those very same signs, events, and symbols as they become reality.

There are going to be a lot of people who, after seeing the End Times fulfilled, are going to say, "I **KNEW** it! '**THAT**' happened and '**THIS**' happened **EXACTLY** as I thought it would!" And the Master will greet them with, "Then why didn't you **LIVE** as if you believed it?"

We are in much deeper need of seminars on personal faithfulness than explaining the meaning of the signs of the times.

In His Love,

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