

## WELCOME TO GOD'S BEAUTIFUL ALTERNATIVE

If you've had enough of the heartache, hardship, and hate of a world at war with God and you're ready to absolutely THRIVE in the life-giving, eternity-changing calling your Designer has designed you to fulfill, then you are right where God wants you to be! We are a community of imperfect people sincerely pursuing God's absolute best for ourselves and everyone around us. That means if there is anything we can do to help you take your next step in following Christ and finding His calling on your one and only life, we are right next to you at whatever cost. If you've got questions, or want to speak to a pastor, or would like to ask for prayer, grab that pen you got with this handout and fill out one of those CONNECT CARDS that was along for the ride. Other than that, we sincerely hope you have an incredible morning marked by a life-changing encounter with the risen and reigning King Jesus Christ.

## EVERYONE WANTS TO BUILD SOMETHING GREAT

The problem is finding the right opportunity. Fortunately, we've got a gaggle of life-changing, eternity-shaping options for you. When you serve with One Missoula Church, you help other people rise to become all that God made them to be. Here are a couple key areas we can multiply your time, energy, and willingness to help others:

- **KidsMin (birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade)** – bring love, joy, and biblical wisdom to young lives
- **Host & Greeter Team** – MASSIVELY important opportunity to help people know they are not only welcome, but WANTED here
- **Event Team** – help us put together anything from special events to simple hangouts so that we can make connections, deepen friendships, and make memories
- **Production Team** – leverage lighting, screen, computer, and sound systems to make the eternity-shaping message of Christ accessible to all
- **Worship Band** – sing or play guitar, bass, drums, and keys with others while building the church and pointing one another to Christ

## COMMUNITY LIKE NO OTHER

God never intended us to live life flying solo. At One Missoula Church we know we are better together, so we are beginning to build incredible groups for community, encouragement, and strengthening. While serving alongside others is an easy way to build friendships (see above), we highly recommend joining a bi-weekly life group or a Discovery Bible Study depending on where you are on your journey with God. Just let us know about your interest on the connect card and we'll get in touch to get you squared away.



## WEEK 4: TRIBULATION TIMING

October 10, 2021

**Matthew 24:21-22** - "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. <sup>22</sup> And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."

"Can you imagine 50-pound chunks of ice falling out of the sky? The hailstones would rip through the roof of your house as though it were paper. They would flatten your automobile. Where would you hide? How could you be safe?" - Chuck Smith. "The Second Coming: Any Day Now." Charisma and Christian Life (February 1989): p. 46.

**Matthew 23:36-24:41** - "Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. ... <sup>34</sup> Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place...."

**"This generation" (Matthew 24:34) refers to Jesus' contemporary audience that was present in the 1st century. If He's talking about His "Second Coming" and the end of the world, that's a real problem. Here's famous atheist Bertrand Russell to explain:**

"I am concerned with Christ as he appears in the Gospel narrative as it stands, and there one does find some things that do not seem to be very wise. For one thing, He certainly thought that His second coming would occur in clouds of glory before the death of all the people who were living at that time. There are a great many texts that prove that and there are a lot of places where it is quite clear that He believed that His coming would happen during the lifetime of many then living. That was the belief of His earlier followers, and it was the basis of a good deal of His moral teaching." - Atheist Bertrand Russell. *Why I Am Not a Christian*, 1957, p. 16.

**However, a quick survey of Bible commentators for centuries prior to the rise of dispensationalism ("Left Behind theology") shows that Christians knew that Jesus was talking about the fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the Temple that was fulfilled in 70 AD.**

"This is a full and clear proof, that not anything that is said before [v. 34], relates to the second coming of Christ, the day of judgment, and the end of the world; but that all belongs to the coming of the son of man in the destruction of Jerusalem, and to the end of the Jewish state." - John Gill. *Exposition of the Old and New Testaments*, 1809.

**In our present day, people try to answer the critics AND fit these passages into the rapture scheme with clever interpretative gymnastics**

**Gymnastic Scripture Twist #1: "THIS generation" really means "THAT generation" in Matthew 24:34**

**LINGUISTIC REALITY: "This generation" ALWAYS means the generation to whom Jesus was speaking. It does not magically change its meaning in Matthew 24:34.**

Luke 11:29-32 - When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.<sup>30</sup> For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation."<sup>31</sup> The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.<sup>32</sup> The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. (see also Matthew 11:16, 12:41, 12:42, 23:36, 24:34; Mark 8:12, 13:30; Luke 7:31, 11:49-51, 17:25, 21:32)

## **Gymnastic Scripture Twist # 2: "This GENERATION" really means "This RACE" in Matthew 24:34**

Matthew 1:17 - So all the generations [races] from Abraham to David were fourteen generations [races], and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations [races], and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations [races].

## **The rest of the New Testament confirms and amplifies this expectation of imminent tribulation in the first century**

Luke 23:28-30 - But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."<sup>29</sup> For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' <sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.'

Acts 2:44-45 - And all who believed were together and had all things in common.<sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

1 Corinthians 7:26, 29, 31 - I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is....<sup>29</sup> This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short....<sup>31b</sup> For the present form of this world is passing away.

Revelation 1:9 - I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

## **Takeaway: Pray to engage the world rather than escape the world. Following the SUFFERING SERVANT who SACRIFICED His life for the glory of God and good of others means victory through trial and tribulation**

John 16:33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



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