

#12: Fixate on the Endtimes... and Ignore the Nowtimes

- Historically, whenever there are unusual, difficult, or traumatic events in the world, the church has begun fixating on the endtimes... and today is no different
- Matthew 24:36-44 – 36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 42 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.
 - Jesus repeatedly tells us that we don’t know the details of His return, that no one but the Father knows
 - What does it mean to “keep watch”?
 - To walk in right relationship with God, listen to Him, and do what He says to do
 - 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.
 - Again, Jesus emphasizes that He’s coming back when you don’t expect Him... so if everyone is thinking He’s coming now, then He’s not
- Matthew 25:13 – ...keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.
- Acts 1:7 – ...It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.
 - ESV and others = “times or seasons”
- In Mark’s version of the events described in Matthew 24, he puts it this way: “You do not know when that time will come” (Mark 13:33)
 - “time” = *kairos* = the proper and fitting time for an event
- Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
 - It’s not for you to know when the end is coming... but 1) get filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, and 2) get out there and preach about Him

#13: Refuse to Guard your Tongue

- A Bold Warning from James
 - James 1:26 – Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.
 - James 3:3-8 – 3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
- From Psalms and Proverbs
 - Psalm 34:12-13 – 12 Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, 13 keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.
 - Proverbs 13:3 – Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin.

- Proverbs 18:6-7 – 6 The lips of fools bring them strife, and their mouths invite a beating. 7 The mouths of fools are their undoing, and their lips are a snare to their very lives.
- Proverbs 29:20 – Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them.
 - NLT = “There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without thinking.”
- Proverbs 21:23 – Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity.
 - MSG = “you’ll save yourself a lot of grief”
- Proverbs 17:27-28 – 27 The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered... 28 Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues.
- Jesus said we would be judged for “every empty word” we speak... and “by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matthew 12:36-37)
- Our Words Have Power
 - Proverbs 18:21 – The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
 - Word have Supernatural Power
 - When God created everything, He did so by His words (Gen 1)
 - Jesus Himself is “the Word” that became Flesh (John 1)
 - Jesus demonstrated the power of words, healing the sick and casting out demons “with a word” (Matthew 8:16)
 - Jesus taught that if you have faith and tell a mountain to be cast into the sea, that’s what will happen (Matthew 17:20)
- So be Careful with Your Words
 - If you constantly speak words that are discouraging, full of fear or doubt, negative, whining, argumentative, contrary to the Scriptures... then that’s what you begin to believe... and that’s what begins to manifest in your life
 - But if you speak words of encouragement, faith, love, victory, hope, healing... then that’s what you believe... and that’s what manifests.

#14: Worry, Don’t Be Happy

- Matthew 6:25-27 – 25 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?
- 103 times the Bible tells us, “Fear not!” in the KJV
 - It’s the most repeated command in the Bible
 - Over 400 other times the Bible talks in general about not being afraid or worried... or fearing God and no other
- Philippians 4:6-7 – 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#15: Bail on the Bible

- Lifeway Research
 - 2025 Survey: 55% of those who attend church don’t even read the Bible at least once a week
 - 20% say they “never” read the Bible
 - 2020 Survey: 82% of Protestant churchgoers say God’s word can mean different things to different people
 - 30% admit they pick and choose what scriptures to believe

- 24% say that some Bible truths become obsolete as culture changes
- United Kingdom Bible Society Survey
 - 30% of adults didn't recognize that Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, and the Good Samaritan were from the Bible
 - About 1/3 said Superman and Harry Potter were or might be Biblical stories
 - 54% said the same about The Hunger Games
- Matthew 7:24-27 – 24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ... 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.