



The End Part V | Signs of the Times | Mark Allen | 9.14.25

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your group time by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand the times we're living in and to give wisdom and boldness to live for Him.

ICEBREAKER

Icebreaker Question: What current event or cultural shift in the past year has most made you think about spiritual matters or the direction of our world?

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

*Daniel 12:1-4 *Revelation 13:16-18 *Matthew 24:42 *1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Understanding the Message

1. Signs of Travel and Knowledge

- Daniel 12:4 speaks of people going "back and forth" and knowledge increasing in the end times. What examples from the sermon or your own life show how dramatically this has changed even in recent years?
- How does the ease of modern travel and instant access to information shape our world differently than previous generations?

2. Technology and Deception

- Pastor Mark discussed AI, Neuralink, and other technologies as potential tools for deception. Do you think technology itself is the problem, or how it's used? Why?
- How can we use technology wisely while remaining discerning about its dangers?

3. The Mark of the Beast

- The sermon presented a different perspective on the "mark of the beast" than a literal 666 tattoo. What did you think about the connection to computer technology and binary code?
- Whether this specific interpretation is correct or not, what does it teach us about being prepared and discerning?

Personal Reflection

4. Waking Up vs. Being Woke

- Pastor Mark said, "God never called the church to be woke. He called the church to be awake." What's the difference between these two concepts?
- In what areas of your spiritual life do you feel you've been asleep? What would it look like to wake up?

5. Righteousness Through Christ

- The sermon emphasized that we're not righteous on our own, but declared righteous through faith in Christ. How does this truth change the way you approach sharing your faith with others?
- Why is it important to remember we can never be "good enough" on our own?

6. Signs and Our Response

- After hearing about these potential signs of the end times, what's your honest emotional response? (Fear? Excitement? Urgency? Skepticism?)
 - How should awareness of the times change the way we live day-to-day?
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Application and Action

7. Living with Urgency

- Pastor Mark mentioned that we should "live every day like it's your last." What would change in your life this week if you truly believed Jesus might return soon?
- Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus? What's keeping you from sharing with them?

8. Being a Voice, Not Silent

- The sermon emphasized that "silence does not work" and called believers to be a voice. What's the difference between being a bold witness and being militant or unloving?
- Share a time when you remained silent about your faith when you should have spoken up. What held you back?

9. The Armor of God

- 1 Thessalonians 5:8 talks about putting on "the breastplate of faith and love" and "the helmet of the hope of salvation." What does this military imagery tell us about the spiritual battle we're in?
- How can you practically "put on" this armor this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **We are living in unprecedented times** where prophecies about travel, knowledge, and technology are being fulfilled before our eyes.
2. **The church must wake up** and recognize the urgency of the hour rather than remaining spiritually asleep.
3. **Our righteousness comes through Christ alone**, not our own goodness, and this truth should motivate us to share boldly.

4. **We are not destined for wrath** - believers have the hope of salvation and will be rescued before God's judgment falls.
5. **Now is the time to act** - to share the gospel, to live boldly, and to make every day count for eternity.

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following action steps to complete before your next group meeting:

Option 1: Share Your Faith Identify one person who doesn't know Jesus and intentionally create an opportunity to share the gospel with them this week.

Option 2: Prayer List Make a list of 5-10 people you know who need Jesus. Commit to praying for them daily and ask God to open doors for conversation.

Option 3: Digital Discernment Evaluate your use of technology and AI. Are there ways you're relying on it that diminish your dependence on God or the Holy Spirit? Make one specific change.

Option 4: Study End Times Read one of the following passages each day this week and journal what God shows you: Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, 1 Thessalonians 4-5, 2 Thessalonians 2, Revelation 13

Closing Reflection

Read together 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6: *"But you, brothers, are not in the darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober."*

Question: What is one specific way you will be more "alert and sober" this week?

Closing Prayer

- Pray together as a group:
- For boldness to share the gospel
- For family and friends who don't know Jesus
- For discernment in these confusing times
- For the church to wake up and be the light
- For the soon return of Jesus

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to different views on end times theology within your group
- Focus on the practical call to action rather than getting stuck on debate about specific dates or interpretations
- Some may feel fear or anxiety about end times topics - emphasize the hope and rescue promised to believers
- Encourage personal testimonies about times when someone was bold in their faith
- Follow up next week on the action steps people committed to

Memory Verse: *"For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Thessalonians 5:9*