



The Last Days Series - Part 3

Pastor Christopher Miller - August 16, 2020

-greet / -giving / -welcome online audience / -share the service

Relaunch Wednesday Nights on September 2

Over the past two Sundays, we have been working our way through Matthew chapter 24 and dissecting the Prophetic insight that Christ provides to us. Up to last Sunday, we have discussed through Matthew 24:1-22 during which time we discussed the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, the expectations of the Church leading up to the Tribulation Period, the Antichrist and the numbers referencing to the number of years that he would be in power in the earth before he commits the Abomination of Desolation which is how many years? 3 and ½ years.

We also talked through the necessity of the Church to be discerning of people and aware that false prophets, false christs, and false signs and wonders are going to be more and more prevalent as the end of days approaches. Bear in mind that we must not become consumed with ideology that Bible Prophecy only addresses the things that will be manifesting in the world but also be aware of the things that are postured to manifest within the church.

When we dive into our teaching through the Book of Revelation in September, we will discuss this point in greater detail because the first 3 chapters are addressing the churches, bringing correction, setting direction, and encouraging the Churches to be diligent in preaching, teaching, right living, and serving one another as the end ever more approaches. If this was admonished of the First Century Church then how much more so should we be willing to put these same things into practice because we are truly living in the Last of the Last Days.

Let me be clear that this does not mean that we should be paranoid of people nor of movements but rather prayerful and discerning regarding the things of God and balance it all upon the Word of God. Remember, a “move of God” will never contradict the Word of God and a “word from God” will never contradict the Word of God! The Word of God is the scales upon which we balance and discern whether or not a person or situation is of God or is not of God.

If it contradicts His Word, then it is Not His Will! Now how can I say that and be Biblically in line with the Scriptures? Because **Psalms 138:2 NKJV** declares, “I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.” And if the Father has magnified His Word above His Name then that means that nothing He will ever do as God or as “Elohim” will never conflict nor undermine the authority and preeminence of His Word. God will never do anything that will contradict His Word because He has exalted His Word above His very name. And it is because of this point that we need to know our Bibles...

Now I want you to turn with me to the Gospel of Saint Matthew 24, we will begin reading at verse 29. So, with that said, Point #1...

1. **There is a coming Judgment upon the Earth:**

a. **Matthew 24:29-31** - ²⁹“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call,

and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- b. Now I want to point out that this text of Scripture found in Matthew 24:29-31 is in reference to the Tribulation period that Jesus is prophetically declaring. We are going to dive deeper into the Tribulation Period when we start our September Series on the Book of the Revelation.
- c. “Now Pastor I don’t believe in the ideology of God judging humanity; the God that I serve is a loving God that would never hurt us.” There is a problem with that line of thinking because the Bible is explicit with the fact that God has historically in both the Old and New Testament, brought judgment upon a person, people or a nation or even nations for that matter. “Yes, but Pastor, God is longsuffering...” That is correct but He is not going to suffer long!
 - i. In the book of Genesis, God judged Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and banished them from the Garden.
 - ii. In the book of Genesis, God judged the world during the time of Noah and flooded the entire earth thus killing the entirety of all creation.
 - iii. In the book of Genesis, God judged Sodom and Gomorrah for its sins of perversion and destroyed it with fire and destruction.

iv. In an article written by the great Dr. Billy Graham entitled *My Heart Aches For America* published on July 19, 2012, Dr. Graham recorded one of the most powerful statements that I've ever heard; listen to his words, "Some years ago, my wife, Ruth, was reading the draft of a book I was writing. When she finished a section describing the terrible downward spiral of our nation's moral standards and the idolatry of worshiping false gods such as technology and sex, she startled me by exclaiming, "If God doesn't punish America, He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." She was probably thinking of a passage in Ezekiel where God tells why He brought those cities to ruin. "Now this was the sin of ... Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen" (Ezekiel 16:49-50, NIV). I wonder what Ruth would think of America if she were alive today. In the years since she made that remark, millions of babies have been aborted and our nation seems largely unconcerned. Self-centered indulgence, pride, and a lack of shame over sin are now emblems of the American lifestyle."

- v. In multiple books of the Old Testament, including Daniel and 1 and 2 Kings, God judged the Nation of Israel because of its perpetual sins and caused them to be taken into captivity over and over again by different enemies and nations to drive her to the place of repenting.
- d. “But Pastor, that’s the Old Testament and we are no longer under the Law and we are under Grace now so God doesn’t do that kind of thing anymore...” Ok, let’s see if scripture bears that out!

- John 3:36 records - ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- In the 5th chapter of the Book of Acts, Ananias and Sapphira, who were believers and were a part of the first century Church, were struck down dead for lying to the Holy Spirit and the Apostles about a financial offering after having sold some land.
- In Acts 12:21-23, the Bible says, “On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²²And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!” ²³Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.”

- In the Book of Romans 1:18-24, ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,^[a] in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God (THEY WERE RELIGIOUS!!!), they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,”
- The Apostle Paul writing to the Church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 5 beginning in verse 1 wrote, “It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. ² And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.³ For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced

judgment on the one who did such a thing. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

- In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul is writing regarding New Testament believers who were coming under the Judgment of God and becoming sick in body, some were even dying, due to the fact that they were not judging themselves and discerning the Lord's Body before partaking of the Lord's Supper. Communion is more than just a sacrament; it is a holy exchange and when we treat holy things as common, the judgment of God will come.
- John the Revelator, in recording the Words of Christ, wrote in Revelation 2:19-23, ¹⁹ "I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³ and I will strike

her children dead. And all the CHURCHES will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.”

One of the scariest Scriptures in the entirety of the New Testament is found in the Gospel of St Matthew 7:21-23, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Jesus is not talking about worldly people; Jesus is talking about Church people! Lord, did we not prophesy, did we not cast out devils, did we not work mighty things in your name? And they still missed heaven. “Well Pastor, are you insinuating that people who are born again can lose their salvation? I thought that once I was saved that I was eternally saved and could never lose my salvation?” According to the words of Jesus found in this Scripture that is not true!

Revelation 3:5, He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. If something can be blotted out then it must first be in there. Too many folks have their faith

walk on cruise control and are not keeping Christ first in their lives. Is Christ on the throne of your heart or are you?

There are too many of us that have a poor definition of God because we allow everything else to define Him except His Word! The idea of “Judgment” makes us uncomfortable because we desire a sugar daddy God that will coddle us and not correct us; we want a greasy grace God that will tolerate our foolish deeds and not have a standard of expectation for our very existence. So many can’t seem to accept this reality but listen to me friend, if that is what you believe then you do not serve the God of the Bible.

And it is because of this misconception that so many Christians today do not believe in Rapture of the Church, the Second Coming of Christ, the Rise of the Antichrist, The 7 Years of Tribulation, or even the Millennial Reign. Friend, the Bible is full of scripture references regarding the Judgment of God being made manifest in the Earth and if you don’t believe the Bible then you are not a Christian.

Not only is there coming a Judgment upon the Earth, there is coming a separation in the Earth! So Point #2...

2. There is a coming separation in the Earth:

a. **Matthew 24:36-39** - ³⁶“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,^[b] but the Father only. ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

- i. In the **Gospel of St. Luke 17:28-33**, we find a parallel text of Matthew 24 but Luke’s Gospel expands beyond the reference to Noah but also touches on Lot’s life and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Notice with me the Words of Christ!
- ii. **Luke 17:28 - 33** - ²⁸Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot— they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building,²⁹ but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—³⁰so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.³¹ On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back.³² Remember Lot’s wife.³³ Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

b. There is coming a separation in the Earth but it's also going to be seen in the Local Church!

i. There is a coming separation of the wheat from the tares according to **Matthew 13:24-30!**

1. **In verse 30, the Bible says, "Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."**

ii. There is a coming separation of the good fish from the bad fish according to **Matthew 13:47-50!**

1. **"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**

a. **"Well Pastor, I don't believe in Hell!" Well then you don't believe the Words of Christ.**

iii. There is a coming separation of the 5 wise virgins from the 5 foolish virgins according to **Matthew 25:1-13!**

1. And the Bible records in verse 8-13, “⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

iv. There is a coming separation of the profitable servant from the unprofitable servant according to **Matthew 25:14-30!**

1. Verse 26-30 records, “²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from

him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- v. There is a coming separation of the sheep from the goats according to **Matthew 25:31-34!**

1. "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

- vi. And none of you are going to escape this separation; my question for you is what side are you going to be on?

1. Are you a Sheep or a Goat?
 - a. Are you going to be ushered into your inheritance or told to depart?
2. Are you a profitable servant or an unprofitable servant?
 - a. Are you going to be blessed because you prospered and increased the talents the Master has given you or are you going to hide what Heaven has given you?
 - b. Hear me well, Heaven has an accounting department and is keeping track of what it has invested into you!
3. Are you as the Wise Virgin or the Foolish Virgin?
 - a. Are you going to be like the wise virgins who are ready when the Master comes to call with oil to light your way when the dark days that are ahead come or are you going to be like the foolish virgins who did not prepare for the darkness and did not invest into the oil that it would take to keep the light burning when darkness comes?
4. Are you a Good Fish or a Bad Fish?
 - a. Are you going to be separated and kept or separated and cast away? When the angels come to harvest the earth to separate the wicked from the righteous, will you be cast into hell or carried into heaven?

5. Are you a Wheat or a Tare?

- a. Under the sound of my voice right now are wheat and tares! When the harvest day comes, when Christ returns for His Church, will you be found gathered into the barn of blessing or thrown in to the fires of Hell?

Jesus said in the Gospel of **St Luke 9:62**, “**Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”** My question for you today is, “Are you laying your hand to the plow and looking back?”

I’m so tired of folks giving their testimony as if their decision to stop living in Sin was doing Christ a favor. As if saying, “I sure do wish I could backslide but I want to keep Jesus happy” Backslide to what? What are you going to backslide to? What is there to back slide to?

There is a coming separation in the Earth and the days of being a fair weather Christian is coming to an end! Not only must we live for Christ in our present age but also, we have a sure hope that He will one day return for us! Jesus is Coming! It could be morning, night or noon; but I know that He’s coming soon!

And it is this same hope that motivated believers over the centuries to remain faithful to Christ through all kinds of persecution. The Bible says that it will rain on the just and the unjust alike. Furthermore, it says that

those that live Godly will suffer persecution. So let the Haters Hate and Serve Jesus anyhow!

Joshua, the successor of Moses, said it this way in Joshua 24:14-15, “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

The Scriptures teach us clearly that we are to come out of the World and be ye separate! 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 declares, “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial?^[b] Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.””

Not only is there a coming Separation in the Earth, there is coming an Escape from the Earth! (Pastor Brad if you will come...) Point #3...

3. There is a coming escape from the Earth:

a. In the Gospel of St Matthew 24:40-51, “⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. ⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and wise servant,^[c] whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

- i. There is a coming escape from the Earth because it is a pattern of the Bible!
 - 1. Noah escaped the flood of Genesis 7
 - 2. Lot escaped the destruction of Sodom in Genesis 19
 - 3. Jeremiah and a remnant escaped Babylonian Captivity in Jeremiah 40
 - 4. 144,000 Jews escape the Antichrist in Revelation 7
 - 5. A group of believers escape to Petra in Revelation 12
 - a. And that's just naming a few...
- ii. There is a coming escape from the Earth because it is expounded upon in the Scripture!

1. Romans 5:9-10 - ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
2. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 - ⁹For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom

He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

3. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, “⁹For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

iii. There is a coming escape from the Earth because it in the very Words of Christ!

1. John 14:1-3 - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- There is a coming Judgment upon the Earth
- There is a coming Separation in the Earth
- There is a coming escape from the Earth

What I want to know today is are you ready? Do not leave this room the way you came in!

Altar Call for souls to be ready for the Rapture of the Church!

New Salvations / Rededications