

## December 19th – Don't Wait Too Late

*“But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.” (Rev. 9:20-21)*

In my years of ministry, I've attempted to witness to lots of folks. Most have been receptive, but some have been strong-willed and skeptical. Rarely I've had people say things like, “If what you're saying is true, I'll just wait for Jesus to come back. When Jesus comes back, then I'll place my faith in Him.” I encourage them not to wait too late because there will be very little opportunity for repentance after the rapture of the church.

Let me explain. Revelation 7 tells us that a good number of people will be saved during the seven year period known as the Tribulation – 144,000 Jews and many other Gentiles. But sadly, today's verses tell us that it will not be easy to repent during the Tribulation. Why? Because Paul tells us that by this point in human history, “the one who restrains” (2 Thess. 2:6) will be removed from the earth. I take that to mean that the Holy Spirit will not be present to convict men of their sins.

If that's the case, then it's easy to see why so many will not repent during the Tribulation, even after they've experienced some of the worst plagues in mankind's history. They won't cease worshiping demons and idols, nor will they repent of their rampant wickedness. So then, if you're one of those people who thinks you'll wait around until Jesus comes back before you get right with God, you need to reconsider immediately. Like Paul said, “now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2).