



## Living in the End Times Session 3 – Don't Let Your Faith Freeze to Death

### I. Introduction

**Matthew 24:3-14 (NKJV)** – <sup>3</sup>Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup>And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup>All these are the beginning of sorrows. <sup>9</sup>“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. <sup>10</sup>And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. <sup>11</sup>Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. <sup>12</sup>And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup>But he who endures to the end shall be saved. <sup>14</sup>And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

### Review

- A. The signs tell us that we are approaching our destination.
- B. Signs warn us of impending danger.
- C. Signs keep us on course so that we will arrive at our destination.
- D. The signs of the times keep us mindful that we are nearing the coming of the Lord.
- E. The signs of the Lord warn us of the dangerous times we are in so we may guard ourselves and our family.



## F. Last Session – The Significant Sign of Deception

*Jesus and Paul prophetically declared that great deception would spread around the world prior to the rapture. MANY would be deceived. This deception would include the world and the church.*

## II. Two Dangerous Signs that are on the increase.

**Matthew 24:12 (NKJV)** – *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

### A. Lawlessness will Abound.

#### 1. Lawlessness – KJV = Iniquity – = Sin

- a. Lawlessness in this verse refers to the actions of an individual, a group of people or a nation that has chosen to live apart from God's laws or principles.
- b. Although this person, group or nation previously followed biblical laws in general, they have elected to choose their own way of doing things that are not founded upon the principles of God's word.
- c. God calls them LAWLESS – *They are living by their own newly evolving principles that are not based upon scripture – in many cases this new way of thinking goes 100% against scripture.*
- d. Two attitudes emerge.  
*First – The world will say, we don't care what the Bible says.  
Second – Many in the church will re-create God to fit their own lifestyle.*

#### 2. Abound = increase, flourish and overflow.

*This LAWLESSNESS will be on a rapid increase.*

*It will spread and flourish like the unwanted weeds in your lawn or garden.*

- a. Indicates that masses of people will lack moral understanding.
- b. Instead of clinging to the spiritual laws and truths they have known and that guided them in the past, masses of people will choose to go another direction.



- c. This present increase of sin/lawlessness is a sign. It will only INCREASE as we approach the coming of the Lord.

3. **The Great Falling Away** – Paul's prophetic declaration.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)** – *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*

- a. **Falling Away** – *mass mutiny against authority.* In this passage, these words describe a society revolting against the authority of God himself.
- b. This is a world-wide rebellion against God.
- c. *That Day* – The day of the coming of the Lord for His church – The rapture – isn't coming until we see this FALLING AWAY occurring in our world.
- d. The Man of Sin Revealed = The ultimate climax of this falling way will occur once the church is gone and the antichrist can take his position as leader in this world.
- e. The spirit of antichrist is at work now.

**1 John 4:3 (NLT)** – *But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.*

*The Spirit of antichrist has one major agenda, TO TURN PEOPLE away from Christ.*

- f. **Right Now** – there is something holding the embodied antichrist back – keeping him from ruling and completely reigning in this world.

**2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 (KJV)** – <sup>6</sup>*And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.*



*The presence of the CHURCH in this world is keeping the antichrist from his agenda.*

- g. This global falling away (mass revolt against God/His Word) should not take us by surprise. IT IS A ROAD SIGN!

## **B. Another Sign: The Love of Many shall Wax Cold.**

**Matthew 24:12 (NKJV)** – *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

1. **Wax Cold** – To progressively become cold hearted.
  - a. It depicts people who have become numbed.  
*Numbed = past feeling or deprived of responsiveness.  
Unable to feel or think normally.*
  - b. Numbed by personal sin or by the condoning of sin by others, or by a sinful environment.
  - c. Jesus said, because of the LAWLESS attitudes of society many people will grow cold and numbed. – callous – desensitized.
2. There is a FALLING AWAY within the world – but because of the condition of society around us – there will also be a FALLING AWAY in the church. *See this sign along your journey and refuse to participate in the falling away.*
3. **The LOVE of many shall wax cold.**
  - a. Love = Agape – Can only mean “Love for God by believers”
  - b. Indicates that there will be a waning of love toward God and toward fellow believers.
  - c. Cold = gr – cold air, a breeze that cools and eventually freezes
4. **Matthew 24:13 (KJV)** – *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*
  - a. Endure = To remain in one's spot/ to keep a position/ to resolve/ - it pictures soldiers who maintain their positions even in the face



of opposition – to stick it out regardless of pressures. STAYING POWER.

- b. If you want God's saving power to continue to work in your life, you must not be moved by the cool/cold/freezing winds of lawlessness that are going to be blowing all around you. The winds of lawlessness that are numbing your senses.
- c. If you will STICK with the Bible it will preserve you until the end.

### C. What do these signs mean to us?

1. Why is Jesus telling us that there will be a world-wide, mass departure from the truth of God's word prior to His return?
2. Why is Jesus telling us that just prior to His coming that many will lose their love for God?
3. He doesn't want you to fall into the dangerous and godless way of thinking that is going to have major effect upon the world and many in the church.
4. To be saved – TO STAY SAFE – You must have ENDURANCE – staying power – the ability to stick it out and stay with the truth in spite of the great pressures all around you.

*These pressures will constantly be at work around you in attempt to change your way of thinking – to numb your senses.*

5. I cannot stop this spirit of lawlessness or the great falling away.
  - a. The winds are going to blow – cooling/cold/freezing winds.
  - b. Have you noticed the winds?
  - c. They are blowing through media.

*Changes in television/movies/commercials.*

*Subtle winds – nearly unnoticed*

*(The wind has picked up) The wind is getting stronger or has increased in pace or intensity.*



- d. They are blowing through government.

*The president's Easter remarks didn't mention of Jesus.*

*Senator Raphael Warnock – "The meaning of Easter is more transcendent than the resurrection of Jesus Christ." – He added, "Whether you are a Christian or not, through a commitment to helping others, we are able to save ourselves."*

- e. They are blowing through our educational systems.  
f. They are blowing all around us from every direction.  
g. I can't stop the wind from blowing.

6. I can choose how I will be affected by it.
- Will I be moved by the shifting wind of change that is blowing across society?
  - Will my morals be re-directed?
  - Will my standard for living be changed?
  - Will my opinion of God change?
  - Will my value of God's word change?
  - Will I stick with God's biblical viewpoint or will I evolve to a new world order way of thinking?
7. WARNING: If you choose to "Stick it Out", – stay with a biblical viewpoint – THERE WILL BE PERSECUTION – Which is the next sign along the journey.

### III. Closing – The warning is clear!

- A.** Jesus warned us so that we wouldn't be overtaken by this present spirit of the age.
- B.** Paul warned us of the great falling away.  
*Perilous times will come.*
- C.** If you are not saved – now is the time.



- D.** If you are saved – now is the time:
1. To strengthen your faith
  2. To anchor your soul in faith and the word of God like never before.
  3. To anchor yourself in the house of God.
  4. To anchor your family in the truth about God.
  5. To anchor yourself in fellowship with other Bible believing people.
  6. Don't fall into the deceptive winds!
  7. Watch out for the little compromises/little changes  
*Behavior/activity that you once would not accept.*
  8. Don't Freeze to Death!
- E.** Do an honest assessment of where are on your spiritual journey.
- F.** Remember – The warning signs are all for your good/to keep you on course for complete blessing.