

"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

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Ye Know Nothing At All (John 11:49)



John 11 - A Prophecy of the Last Days!

What is associated with the sure word? "We have also a more sure word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19). Prophecy! In regards to this, consider, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy" (1 Timothy 4:14). "Despise not prophesyings" (1 Thess. 5:20). Yet prophecy, the guiding force for the church, is ignored mainly for lack of understanding.

Look at the events of John the Baptist. They appear to parallel the second coming. Mark 1:15 summarizes, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." A direct reference is, "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Corinthians 10:11). Although this focuses on examples of the Exodus, the principle reveals that the whole Bible is for those who live at the end of time.

Encapsulated in this one verse is our mission. "The time is fulfilled" and "The kingdom of God is at hand" reveals a double portion of a prophetic thrust. "Repent ye" is a declaration that people are not prepared. People are still living in sin. "Believe the gospel," the solution to the sin problem for it gives you victory over sin and prepares you for the final event (Jude 1:24-25).

John knew prophecy. He knew that people could not appreciate the gospel without first appreciating the nearness of time. Without the prophetic message, the declaration of the time people live in, appreciating the gospel is a careless acceptance. But, under a prophetic announcement, especially in crisis, the gospel is accepted in a serious manner. People are willing to die for it, and that is not the gospel of compromise. If people are to die for their faith, then they are not going to be willing to die if sin is permitted because if it were permitted, then they would be willing to lie to escape.

Could you imagine the martyrs lying to get out of being martyred? Is being coerced into lying a sin? Yes! The martyrs faced death and did not lie! But we are seeing news reports on how some Christians lie to get out of the radical

Muslim beheadings presented as the right thing to do. Something is sadly wrong.

We are in a crisis! Christianity at large has been taken over by compromise. A preacher may be strong against sin, in non-Christians, but when they preach the gospel, sin is allowed to exist. How powerful is the gospel then? They may be part of the effort to bring people into church but are using non-converting means.

Now with that backdrop, let us look at one particular parallel event — **John 11:33-57**

John 11:33-34 *When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.*

Jesus represents the faithful Christian. The Jews represent the organized church. Remember, the Jews that were weeping were hired to help with the mourning. They were faking their sadness just as many "Christians" fake their Christianity. "[I know] the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but [are] the synagogue of Satan" (Revelation 2:9). The simple understanding of this verse is the comparison of converted and unconverted people.

John 11:35 *Jesus wept.*

Jesus did not weep because of the death of Lazarus because he knew four days earlier He would resurrect him (John 11:11). He wept for the people of the church and how it became a poor representation of God.

John 11:36-38 *Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.*

How many Christians attack other Christians verbally? When one decides to keep the whole law (James 2:10), "Legalist" and "Fanatic" are thrust upon them. That is no different than accusing Jesus of showing up too late and not using His powers rightly. What is the power today and how is it regarded? We are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salva-

WHO ARE WE?

We are not a church but rather a ministry, encouraging church attendance, but not as blind pew warmers but rather as searchers of a TSTL — "Thus Saith the Lord"

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe.

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Do You Have A TSTL For That???

If someone asked you "why do you believe that or why do you do that" could you give them an answer from the Bible — a TSTL?

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

UPDATES FOR TSTL WEBSITES

- Now released **TSTL4Ministers.Net** is our latest outreach website — this one for ministers.
- It contains all four newsletters published thus far, fifth one by the time you receive this.
- All resources, including the monthly newsletter, are free!

ONLINE BIBLESTUDY!



YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE!

- 📖 What did Satan mean by this?
- 📖 Eve believed the lie, but how many more believe it as well?
- 📖 What does it mean to die?
- 📖 What happens after you die?

These and other questions are answered at...

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tion" (1 Peter 1:5). Kept from what? "Keep you from falling" (Jude 1:24), which is in sin. The church is prophesied to be "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power" (2 Timothy 3:5). Hardly a Christian believes that Jesus can keep them from sinning.

John 11:39-40 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been [dead] four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

In Luke 18:8, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" we see that faith will probably be challenged or is now. Faith is not just believing God exists but believing what God says and living it. Do you believe some form of evolution? Has scientists influenced you? Do you believe the Bible to be the inerrant Word of God?

John 11:41-42 Then they took away the stone [from the place] where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up [his] eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said [it], that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

Truly faithful will turn to prayer for that is the only hope in these days.

John 11:43-44 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

In the latter days, the saints will "go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:7-8).

John 11:45-46 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.

From Genesis to Revelation you will find that leadership has always had an ear towards complainers and, to smooth out relations, have come down upon the faithful fiercely. The time before the second coming will not be different.

John 11:47-53 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all [men] will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, [named] Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied

that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

The parallel is found in Matthew 24:9 "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."

John 11:54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

Just as the apostles left Jerusalem (the church), just as David sought refuge among the enemy of Israel (the church), just as many went into hiding during the reformation (the church), as history proves that from time to time the truly faithful have to withdraw from the church – compromised leadership and their followers.

John 11:55-57 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves. Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew [it], that they might take him.

Luke 12:51-53 explains this. "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."

Direct Application

Do not to become comfortable in church. From the beginning of time, every time there is a crisis, God protects His faithful as the church turns upon them. The same is going to happen at the end of time and is happening. A crisis will or may even be occurring. In logical step-by-step progression, the vast majority of Christians will turn from their faith without leaving Christianity and persecute the faithful for being faithful. Not once does the Bible speak of removing any believers before that time. Pre-rapture, a theory born in the 1800's, has infiltrated churches preparing people to be off guard to the real events.

How many Christians agree that speaking the truth on practicing homosexuality is mean and hateful? How many Christians believe this country should be neutral instead of Christian based? How many Christians see no big deal that Christian articles are being changed and removed? How could these Christians allow all

DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



My Help (Psalms 70:5)

1. In addition to being your help, what else is God?

Psalms 27:9

2. God is your help and? **Psalms 40:17**

3. What shall we be able to hide under?
Psalms 63:7

4. Where do we hope God is not? **Psalms 71:12**

5. Where could our soul end up if God were not our help? **Psalms 94:17**

6. Who is our help? **Psalms 121:2**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

I will come again (John 14:3)

1. What two things do we not know about

Jesus' return? **Matthew 24:36** "But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

2. As the time of the event gets closer, what are Christians supposed to do? **Matthew 25:13** "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

3. What is the reaction of most people when someone says that they sense the nearness of the second coming? **2 Peter 3:3** "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts"

4. What will the second coming be like to those people? **1 Thessalonians 5:2** "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."

5. What will they do when they see Him? **Revelation 6:15** "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains."

6. What two expressions will be revealed when the glory of the second coming is revealed? **1 Peter 4:13** "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

Think On These Things

How Long Will This Continue?

Are you tired of the wicked getting away with what they do? Do you wish God would just put an end to all the wickedness? You are not alone, and it is not just in our time...

God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid [them] out of the hand of the wicked. They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

I have said, Ye [are] gods; and all of you [are] children of the most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes. Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.

(Psalms 82:1-8)

(Continued from page 2)

this and more? Because they have been fed that the crisis is in the future and they will be raptured out.

Nowhere in this verse-by-verse study was there a hint of rapture. In fact, there is a direct mention of withdrawing from the organized church at the end of time.

The future Antichrist theory is even all wrong. Examine all four references:

1 John 2:18-23 *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that **antichrist** shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One,*

*and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is **antichrist**, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also].*

1 John 4:3-6 *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of **antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the*

spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

2 John 1:7-9 *For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an **antichrist**. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*

Conclusion

Every single case deals with belief. Your beliefs are under attack right now. Cease from the compromises, open the eyes of your fellow Christians, do not just attend church but rather ruffle the feathers of falsehood and expose the hidden truth. How much is it worth to have your neighbor in heaven? Your friendship?

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**FIRST COMING
PARALLELS THE
SECOND! HIDDEN
SECRETS REVEALED!**
(Main article)

MY HELP!
(Bible Study)

BEER TO WIN SOULS?
(Question & Answer)



ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH (Dan. 10:21)



QUESTION – Is there a “Thus Saith the Lord” regarding using beer to attract people to church?

ANSWER – Evidently you are commenting upon the Saint Louis group focused upon winning souls, which is admirable, but lack Bible principle. From the *Columbia Tribune*:

Every month, dozens show up at the brewpub to drink beer and talk about issues ranging from racism in St. Louis to modern-art controversies to the debate about embryonic stem cell research. First-timers are invited to check out the church on Sunday, and Journey leaders say many have. Theology at the Bottleworks is just one of The Journey’s ministries, but it has helped the church grow from 30 members in late 2002 to 1,300 today.

Going to where people are is a good thing. Doing as people do there is what is wrong. We ask, "When will churches get their eyes off of growing the numbers in church and work on conversions (heaven destined Christians)?" Just because one attends church does not mean they are saved. When we focus on growing the church, using "the means justify the end result" logic then anything ridiculous goes, such as the Lancaster, PA female minister who preached on the steps of city hall in the nude. Jesus did not

use anything to entice people to follow Him. "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:6). To walk in any manner contradictory to Jesus is not from heaven. Jesus never used alcohol to win souls. And that wedding at Cana, the jury is still out on if Jesus turned the water into alcohol or grape juice. Jesus met their needs – not wants. Further, Jesus did not gain followers that day. In fact, He disappeared immediately afterwards.

And feeding the four and five thousand, remember, they followed Jesus first. Jesus had compassion upon them and fed them. Afterwards, Jesus had to break up the group (Matthew 15:38-39). So in no way was any object used to win souls. Even Jesus' appearance did not attract people. He was not handsome nor real ugly. "When we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2).

When Jesus attended gatherings, nowhere did He partake of anything objectionable to fit in. Yes, He was accused of such (Matt. 11:19), but there is no evidence of Him taking part in such.

If the ends justify the means, then there are no limits. In fact, to attract many more, especially males, which is greatly lacking, we should have strip clubs and orgy parties. If you think that is ridiculous, then you understand that church sanctioned beer gatherings is also ridiculous.

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