

“The End is Near! Live and Work for Jesus!”

11-17-13

We've all seen it. If not in real life, then in the movies or TV. There's a man standing on a soapbox on a street corner and he's proclaiming at the top of his lungs, "The end of the world is near!" We might think the man is mentally imbalanced but what he's said is so true!

Congratulations, today, you are seven days closer to the end!! Today, the end of the world is closer than it ever was before, even though we all have lived through some terrible things. Open to Luke 21. Jesus is talking to His disciples and His topic is the end of time and what they will be encountering at that time. Verses 9-11, "*And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.*" Then he said to them, "*Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.*"

This is only a partial list, so don't be misled. Look at what Jesus says about this time. There will be wars, earthquakes, famine, and great signs from heaven. As you hear just these things, it's easy to understand why people can get nervous because these are exactly the things that are going on now! The Middle East, the Philippines, Africa, and floods and landslides everywhere!

Open to John 15. Jesus told His disciples and us that besides these physical things, it will get even worse for our spirits. Look at verses 18-19, "*If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*" As God's child, you will be hated and persecuted! Trust me, if you're a follower of Jesus Christ, you're not going to win any popularity contest!

Because of all these negative things, and the feeling that there's no hope, and the end of the world is near, it's not a time to sit still and wait!

Turn to 2 Thessalonians 3. The servant of God who waits for the coming of the Lord, needs to be filled with His presence and be active and work for Him! Look at verses 11-13, "*For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.*"

As we see the world the way it is today, it's important that we work to tell the message of Jesus Christ to everyone around us. He's asked us to live for Him and to get the Word out! Not everyone around you will be like you. Not everyone will make you feel comfortable and not everyone will be accepting of you as a child of God! But in everything you do you need to not only show Jesus but also share Jesus!

As the body of Christ here in this place, and everywhere we go, we should have the compassion of Jesus and the love of Jesus for all people, no matter who or what they are.

I'd like to share an incredible story with you and I pray it will touch your heart and cause you to see the true mission Jesus has given you.

The world is so secular today. If Jesus were to come in the form of a homeless man, are we ready for him? Pastor Jeremiah Steepok transformed himself into a homeless

person and went to the 10,000 member church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor that morning.

He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service. Only 3 out of 7-10,000 people said hello to him. He asked for change to buy food. NO ONE in the church gave him change. He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit in the back. He greeted people to be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him.

As he sat in the back of the church, he listened to the church announcements and such. When all that was done, the elders went up and were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. *"We would like to introduce to you Pastor Jeremiah Steepok"*. The congregation looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up, and started walking down the aisle. The clapping stopped with ALL eyes on him. He walked up to the altar and took the microphone from the elders (who were in on this) and paused for a moment, then he recited from Matthew 25:

"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. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

After he recited this, he looked towards the congregation and told them all what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and many heads were bowed in shame. He then said, *"Today, I see a gathering of people, not a church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people, but not enough disciples. When will YOU decide to become disciples?"* He then dismissed service until next week.'

Being a Christian is more than something you claim. It's something you live by and share with others! The end IS near! Live and Work for Jesus each and every day with everyone you see!