

A few end time seductions

One of my favourite topics is the end times because there is so much bible prophecy being fulfilled and about to be fulfilled in our generation. When all the world says over population, financial crisis, depletion of world resources, global warming etc etc etc I can't help but think, Lord all the signs are the that you are getting closer and that just excites me and makes my desire to witness for you today and tomorrow all the more urgent and focused.

I won't get into 1 Thessalonians about the rapture or the book of Revelation regarding one world governments, one world financial systems, one world religions, antichrists and all those issues which we can see the world steadily moving towards now. Let me share with you a couple of very well known scriptures and some scientific facts and then focus on what Paul tells Timothy about not being deceived in the last days by false doctrine.

Just a couple of things quickly to get us all on the same page

Matthew 24:3-14

3Later, as Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him in private and asked, "When will this happen? What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world?"

4Jesus answered:

Don't let anyone fool you. 5Many will come and claim to be me. They will say that they are the Messiah, and they will fool many people.

6You will soon hear about wars and threats of wars, but don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end. 7Nations and kingdoms will go to war against each other. People will starve to death, and in some places there will be earthquakes. 8But this is just the beginning of troubles.

9You will be arrested, punished, and even killed. Because of me, you will be hated by people of all nations. 10Many will give up and will betray and hate each other. 11Many false prophets will come and fool a lot of people. 12Evil will spread and cause many people to stop loving others. 13But if you keep on being faithful right to the end, you will be saved. 14When the good news about the kingdom has been preached all over the world and told to all nations, the end will come.

Firstly let me say that as I understand it Christian radio or TV is accessible to the whole world now. But the book of revelation tells us that an angel will preach the gospel to the whole world during the tribulation before the second coming as well. The most important thing about this teaching from the Lord is this that when Jesus says this is just the beginning of troubles the idea is that this is like a lady going into labour. There has always been earthquakes, floods, famines etc but as we move toward the end like a lady about to deliver a baby the intensity and the frequency of these things will increase. (Eg examples from Carols' paper)

In the 15th century we are aware that there were 6 famines in the world

In the 20th century there were 44 famines. Between 1928 and 1961 more than 36 million people died of starvation.

The Euphrates River is currently drying up and expected to run dry by 2018 which is interesting because in Rev 16:12 it says that in the last day the Euphrates river will dry up.

In the 15th century there were 2 earthquakes

In the 29th century there were 123 earthquakes.

The Chile earthquake in 1960 was 9.5 and the most powerful earthquake ever recorded.

There is a well documented increase in Hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons over the last 100 years

Jesus said in Luke 21:25

Strange things will happen to the sun, moon and stars. The nations on earth will be afraid of the roaring seas and the tides, and they won't know what to do.

Did you know that the Asian Tsunami wiped out over 230,000 people and was the biggest Tsunami in world history. People have become scared of the roaring of the sea and of sea levels rising.

Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:1-4

¹You can be certain that in the last days there will be some very hard times.

²People will love only themselves and money. They will be proud, stuck-up, rude, and disobedient to their parents. They will also be ungrateful, godless,

³heartless, and hateful. Their words will be cruel, and they will have no self-control or pity. These people will hate everything that is good. ⁴They will be sneaky, reckless, and puffed up with pride. Instead of loving God, they will love pleasure.

Boy does that describe NZ!

The second thing worth pointing out that gives us an indication of the age we live in is Matthew is latter on in the same chapter Matthew 24:32-35

32Learn a lesson from a fig tree. When its branches sprout and start putting out leaves, you know that summer is near. 33So when you see all these things happening, you will know that the time has almost come. [a] 34I can promise you that some of the people of this generation will still be alive when all this happens. 35The sky and the earth won't last forever, but my words will.

The fig tree is always a symbol of the nation of Israel which lost its leaves, lost its identity for hundreds of years until May 1948. Jesus said when the fig tree, the nation of Israel gets its leaves back, which I believe means gets its land, its identity back some of that generation will still be alive for the second coming of Christ.

A generation biblically is 100 years. The Jews were in captivity for four generations or 400 years in Egypt. So some who were alive in May 1948 will still be alive when Christ returns I guess any day before May 2048. That could be today or tomorrow but no latter than 2048. Exciting.

There is lots said in the bible about bizarre weather patterns etc as we approach the rapture and then the second coming but what is of the most importance to us is that

we, or at least those left behind know how to discern truth from error in the coming wacky days.

Paul writing his first letter to Timothy in chapter 4 says this

1God's Spirit clearly says that in the last days many people will turn from their faith. They will be fooled by evil spirits and by teachings that come from demons.

I am really saddened by some popular teaching, ear tickling which lacks any call to repentance or to sacrificial living. In this generation there has been a real erosion of confidence in biblical truth.

In 2009 the Barna research group did a survey of Americans the results of which I suspect are pretty close to what NZ's results would have been.

The survey defined a biblical world view as a belief in;

absolute moral truth

biblical accuracy

salvation as being something that we cannot earn but only receive by faith

Satan is a real being

Jesus lived a sinless life

God is the all powerful all knowing creator of the universe

If that is a definition of a biblical world view the survey showed that amongst 18-23yr olds only one in every two hundred young people held this view and taking every age into consideration only nine in every hundred held this view.

Ie America is a pretty Christian country but only 9% hold a biblical world view.

So sad.

There are many church's working with other religions to try to find commonality and harmony. An Anglican leader in the UK has suggested that we Christians stop calling God father and universally call him Allah to help us get along with and work with the Islamic world.

There are untold church's (particularly Anglican) saying same sex marriage is Ok and that you can't take the bible literally.

There is a church on TV on a regular basis which never speaks about sin, repentance or hell in case it offends some one and doesn't encourage them, its not positive and so it is left out.

People will turn from a saving faith and be deceived by demons.

These demons we find are the ones described in Revelation 9. They are the worst of the worst demons and currently they are locked in the Abyss and will not be released until during the tribulation. The Abyss is a terrible place. Do you recall what the legion of demons said to Jesus at the tombs of Geresar? They begged Jesus not to send them into the Abyss. These demons aren't scary demons they have attractive faces and long hair. Long hair in biblical times was always associated with seductive woman. So these demons who will inspire false teachers and lead people astray will come across as reasonable and nice but are seducing people away from God. I believe they will say things like: "all ways lead to God." "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as it works for you", or "a good God would never send people to hell"

Lies that sound reasonable and appealing but are dangerously untrue.

1 Timothy 4:2-3 (21st Century King James Version)

***2speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron,
3forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God
hath created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know
the truth.***

These false teachers have their consciences seared with a hot iron. Sometimes people will tell you they follow their conscience which on the face of it is a really good thing but if a person continues in sin or deceit their conscience will become hardened to truth and to God and eventually will lie to them.

Two signs of a false teacher are that they will forbid people to marry.

I believe that when people think or hear some one teach that marriage is just a tradition, its just a bit of paper. They don't need to marry they should just shack up together and give the relationship a try. Because Gods word says repeatedly that sex with out a licence is a very serious salvation threatening sin, because of that and this prophetic word from Paul I am convinced that those that think and teach that you don't need to marry get their ideas from demons. Demons with nice faces and long seductive hair but demons all the same.

Another clue that we are dealing with false teachers is that they will instruct us to abstain from eating meats.

Now this is a strange thing to you and me and I am not sure I understand it fully but pagan religions have very, very often advocated veganism.

In Genesis 9 after the great flood God said this to Noah.

1God said to Noah and his sons: Genesis 9:1-3

I am giving you my blessing. Have a lot of children and grandchildren, so people will live everywhere on this earth. 2All animals, birds, reptiles, and fish will be afraid of you. I have placed them under your control, 3and I have given them to you for food. From now on, you may eat them, as well as the green plants that you have always eaten.

God tells Noah and his sons have kids and eat meat. Up until this point humanity had been vegetarians. God says eat meat.

Now I am not saying that if you choose to be vegan that is going to get you in trouble with God or infected with demons, but know this that Hinduism has more gods and demons than any other false religion and tells people that they must be vegan. The new age movement, the tree hugging movement, much of witchcraft advocates veganism.

So veganism is not necessarily wrong but be careful in the last days because often the people pushing this lifestyle are often pushing an underlying false religion as well.

1 Tim 4:6 If you teach these things to other followers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus. You will show that you have grown up on the teachings about our faith and on the good instructions you have obeyed. 7Don't have anything to do with worthless, senseless stories. Work hard to be truly religious.

Recently there was a movie released, I haven't seen it but I understand that it was based on a Mayan prophecy that says that the world will end in 2012. That is a

senseless story from outside of the Holy Spirits inspiration and is not worth letting it settle in your mind. Its better to not waste any time on those stories and to exercise yourself in true godliness.

8-9As the saying goes,

"Exercise is good

for your body,

but religion helps you

in every way.

It promises life

now and forever."

These words are worthwhile and should not be forgotten.

Exercise is good and for every hour you exercise researchers tell us you will live an hour longer but the benefit of physical exercise is very temporary. The benefits that come from spiritual exercise are eternal.

Jogging is good but jogging your memory of scriptures is even better.

Deep knee bends, squats are good but bending your knees in prayer is even better.

Bench presses are good but pressing into the things of the Kingdom are even better.

13Until I arrive, be sure to keep on reading the Scriptures in worship, and don't stop preaching and teaching.

How often do modern church's read scripture? Its a bit scary.

But its the knowledge of the Word that will keep people on track with God when there are false teachers inspired by demons.

How can you keep your salvation and help many others find salvation when in the end times people are exposed to seductive teaching inspired by demons?

16Be careful about the way you live and about what you teach. Keep on doing this, and you will save not only yourself, but the people who hear you.

Should we be afraid when we see bizarre weather patterns and earthquakes and floods and famines increase?

Should we be worried as the governments of the world move towards a common currency and a world banking system?

Should we be panicking if there are some wacky teachings that sound very nice and reasonable. You don't need to get married. Don't eat meat. All ways lead to God.

My friends it does not worry me. It makes me more excited and focused.

What concerns me is this that you and I study the Word and exercise our selves spiritually so that not only will we stay in the kingdom but we will bring on board thousands of others.