

# FREEDOM NEWS

WHERE FAITH MEETS ACTION



**Message from Pastor Derek Heldreth**

## Living in the Last Days

You may have heard people talking about the end times and the return of Jesus and make statements like this.

**2 Peter 3:3-4** Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts. And saying, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all these things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

From the days of the early church, believers lived expecting Jesus to come back soon. But in reality, this could not have occurred until the time that we are living in today, because all end time prophecy revolves around the Jewish people being brought back from a worldwide dispersion to their homeland of Israel. They started coming back to Israel in the 1900's culminating into them becoming a nation again in 1948. When Jesus returns, He is returning to Israel on the Mount of Olives.

**Zechariah 14:3-4** Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations as when He fought in the day of battle. And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem...

This scripture is written by an Old Testament prophet foretelling a yet to be fulfilled prophecy. In

reading the Old Testament, phrases like in that day, the day of the Lord, the day, the latter times, etc. are indicators that those Bible passages are speaking prophetically of the last days. Some of these prophecies have what you might call a near and far fulfillment. Some spoke of the days of the prophet that would happen and of a further future time.

The Bible also tells us what we should be doing as people who are living in those days. In the book of Revelation Chapter 2 and 3 Jesus speaks to the 7 churches that remain during that time. These were actual churches during that time but are also representative of churches of the end times. He reprimands the churches for many things. Let's look at what He said the church did right.

He told the church at Ephesus that they persevered and did not faint. They also did not tolerate false doctrine. The church at Pergamos was commended for remaining faithful in the midst of being surrounded by worship of demonic idols. The church of Thyatira was commended for their love, service, faith and their works. The church at Sardis was told that they had a few names which had not defiled or stained their garments and would walk with Jesus in white garments. But those few were the exception in that church. The church of Philadelphia was commended for having a little strength, keeping His Word and not denying His Name.

One church had no good works. Jesus had nothing good to commend the church of Laodicea about. They were a church that was known for being ruled by the people, a church where the people did not have a genuine faith, a church of the end times known for apostasy, false teaching and deserting their faith.

We want to focus on what the churches did that caused Jesus to commend them. We want to avoid those things that the churches did wrong. Jesus gives each church instructions on how they can remain strong and avoid the pitfalls these churches experienced. He also points to the rewards He has in store for them.

**Revelation 3:5 He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels.**

To Be Continued.....

## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 27-29<sup>th</sup> - Brad Flook Meetings @ Christian Center Church

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*Word of Faith*

[www.christiancenternorman.org](http://www.christiancenternorman.org)

