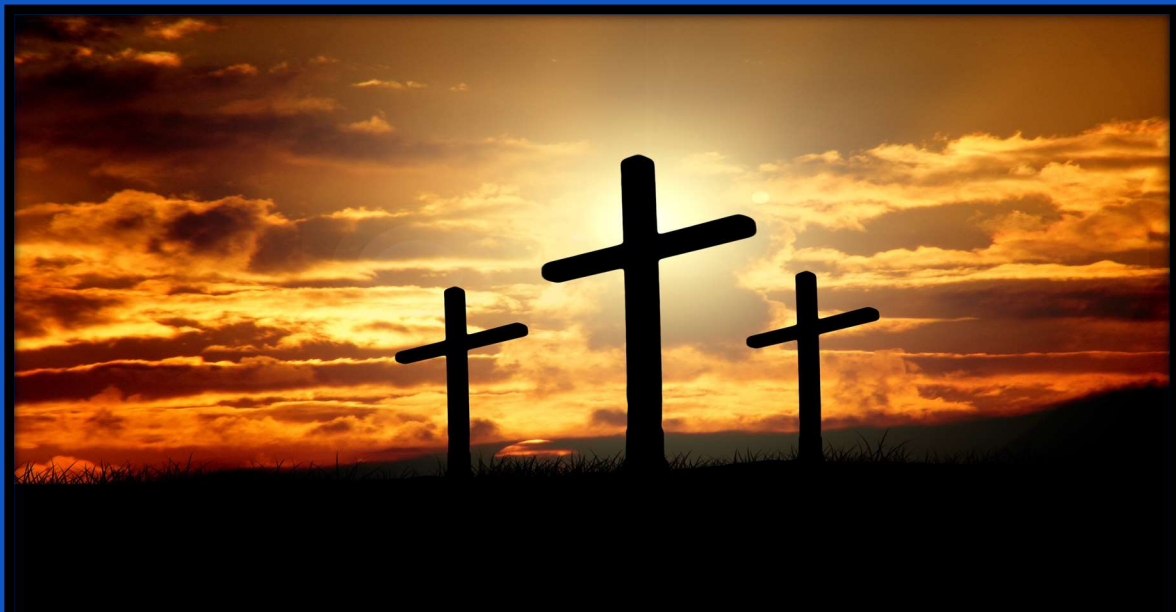


FREEDOM NEWS

WHERE FAITH MEETS ACTION



Message from Pastor Derek Heldreth

Living in the Last Days - Part 2

Since we are living in changing and challenging times, and what the Bible terms in the book of **2 Timothy 1:3** as perilous times, it is vital to be able to be a discerner of the time and season that we are living in. Discernment by definition is the ability to choose between what is true and right and what is false and wrong, truth and error as well as identifying God's will and direction for His people.

Daniel 2:21-22 And He changes the times and seasons: He removes kings and sets up kings: He gives wisdom unto the wise and knowledge to them that know understanding: He reveals the deep and secret things: He knows what is in darkness and the light dwells with Him.

It is obvious to many that we are living in unprecedented times and experiencing many changes: financial uncertainty, wars and more impending wars, a moral and spiritual divide, a breakdown of the family and a breakdown of borders. In the midst of these times, we see from the prophecies of Daniel that God will give us wisdom and knowledge of what we should do. We see from the example of the life of Daniel that God will protect us and give us favor. He also tells us that it is God that appoints leaders and also removes them. He sees those things that are being done in darkness and will reveal them to us. He will also reveal secret things and mysteries to us, so that we can walk in spiritual awareness and also know practical steps we should take. We can also be discerners of those voices we should listen to and those we should ignore.

Zechariah 12:3 And in that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all peoples; all who lift it or burden themselves with it shall be sorely wounded. And all the nations of the earth shall come and gather together against it.

Why all the disruption and war in Israel? It is God's prophetic clock. When we see things happening there, it is a sign to us that the rapture is drawing near. Also, when scriptures contain phrases such as "in that day" it is a flashing light that this scripture is a prophecy, not for that ancient time but for our time, the end times. The signs are given for us to prepare ourselves naturally and spiritually. Jesus also gave us warning signs, in fact these are some of the last things He taught before He went to the cross.

Matthew 24:4 Take heed no man deceive you.

These are the words of Jesus. He told us the first thing to watch for was to not be deceived. Today we have deceptive voices through social media, political leaders as well as religious leaders. Jesus warned us of other signs as well:

Matthew 24:6 There will be wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened or troubled.

Do not succumb to fear. The word tells us to be strong and courageous and we do that by being full of the Word and doing what the Word tells us to do.

Matthew 24:9 You will be hated of all nations for My Name's sake.

Religious persecution that we see in many nations of the earth and in the beginning stages in our nation will increase.

Matthew 24:14 This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all nations of the world for a witness to all nations.

In the midst of deception, in the midst of war, persecution, our focus according to Jesus is the preach the Gospel and win souls. When we see these signs around us, we can know the end is drawing near. We also know we are to discern the times and season we are living in. Why? So that we will not be unprepared, so we can tell others who don't have hope, who don't have a purpose, who don't have a Savior the Good News that Jesus loves them, gave His life for them, rose from the dead for them and is coming back again for them. Many have no idea what is happening all around them, but they just know things are not right. We have answers for them from the Word of God. We can offer them hope and life.

In times of instability people's hearts are more open to the Gospel. We are all called to be soul winners, to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to our friends, family, co-workers, neighbors. To bring as many to heaven with us as possible. The words of Jesus say it best:

Matthew 24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom His Lord when He comes shall find so doing.

To Be Continued...

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6th - Outdoor Movie Night 8pm @ Christian Center Church

September 27-29th -Special Speaker Brad Flook @ Christian Center Church

Friday night @ 7pm and Sunday 10:30am & 6pm

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Pastors Derek and Diane Heldreth

Word of Faith

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