

LOVE / THE GREATEST NEED

THE NEED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

During the 1970s there were dire predictions about a coming ice age. By the 1990s this was changed to warnings about global warming and now many pundits, politicians and even the pope proclaim climate change is the planet's greatest crisis. It is noteworthy that the 'scientific' computer models of the doomsday experts ignore or minimize a key factor in climate change..... **the sun**. There is something more serious happening in the world today, but most people do not recognize it, because they have ignored the person who created the sun**the Son**. 2000 years ago, Jesus gave many warnings to this world about what would take place just before he returns to this earth. One of his most important ones was about climate change, in the form of **global cooling**.

And the **love** of the great body of people will **grow cold** because of the multiplied **lawlessness** and iniquity. - Matthew 24:12 Amplified Version

Because of the increase of **wickedness**, the **love** (agape) of most will **grow cold**, but he who **stands firm** to the end will be saved. - Matthew 24:12-13 NIV

(Lack of love will cause people to be lawless, however these verses speak of love (agape) going cold due to the wickedness taking place. This shows that Jesus was thinking of Christians. In verses before this, Jesus refers to persecution and how many will turn away from the faith and betray and hate each other - Matt.24:9-10 The prophecy of Matthew 24 includes references to what took place prior to 70 A. D. when Rome sacked Jerusalem, persecuted Christians and destroyed the temple. However, some prophecies in the Bible have double references so it can also refer to the end of the age before Jesus returns.

(For those interested in deeper theology concepts:

*Full **preterists** believe all of Matt.24 took place **previously** in the past in the 1st century.

***Futurists** believe this will all take place in the future prior to the 2nd coming - most radio and TV preachers have this view. * **Partial preterists** believe there is a mixture of both past and future in these prophecies by Jesus in Matthew 24. My view is that this can have double references to what took place leading up to 70 AD but also applies to the days preceding the 2nd coming. Who is right? Time will tell, in the meantime, Jesus implores us to **be faithful** until the end)

Love can grow cold. Our love relationship with God, a spouse, a child, a parent or with a fellow believer can cool off. It is subtle....gradual.....a process over time, but the end result is love grown cold as the fire and warmth of love is gone. I have experienced some of this myself. Hurts, wounds, distractions and disappointments in life can quench our relationships with others. People handle such things in various ways. Some persons repress things and go inward towards isolation, depression and even suicide; whereas others go outward and express themselves with anger, violence and even murder. A world without God at the center becomes thankless, faithless, senseless, heartless, ruthless and lawless. - see Romans 1:18-32 Idolatry always leads

to immorality. False gods give freedom and pleasure for a season, but then there is the downward spiral into waywardness and emptiness.

Jesus had compassion on the lost and desired that all should come to Him. However, sometimes true love must confront people and systems that are contrary to God's best purposes.

Do you remember what God said about Jesus? 'You have **loved righteousness** and **hated wickedness**' - Hebrews 1:9. Jesus displayed anger a few times as when he overturned the money changers tables in the temple. **Love for Father's House** made him angry about its misuse. - John 2:14-17. God says it is okay to be angry.....but in the process, do not sin. - Ephesians 4:26. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but spiritual powers. Nave's Topical Bible has nearly 4 pages of verses on the anger of God and about 7 pages on the fear of the Lord. We should not take our anger out on people but only against wicked systems and the spiritual forces behind them. That is a large subject to explore some other time. Most of us have our occasional outburst of anger (greek =thumos) but the most dangerous type is a **brooding anger** which can lead to bitterness and even murder. This is the greek word orge, which Jesus warned about in the Sermon on the Mount. - Matthew 5:21-22.

Satan is angry and is behind the evil in this world. I have come to the conclusion, based on the Bible and research, that much of history is not 'accidental' but prevalent with 'conspiracies'!

'Why do the nations **conspire** and the peoples **plot** in vain] - Psalm 2:1 NIV

'With cunning, they **conspire** against your people; they **plot** against those you cherish.' - Psalm 83:3 NIV

The original conspirator was Lucifer, filled with pride and a lust for power, he sought to overthrow Almighty God and seat himself on the throne of the universe. He was cast down and was filled with hatred, anger and rage against God. Since then he has worked through his cadre of evil spirits and various people to attack all that is good or of God. Some well known politicians and others have been inspired by the book, '**Rules For Radicals**' by Sol Alinsky. On the dedication page, Lucifer is listed as the greatest of all rebels. This was used as a manual for 'community organizers' a.k.a. 'community agitators'.

Jesus was a radical too, but he brought a **revolution of love** which sought to win the hearts of people through displaying the goodness of God. His way to bring justice is different, by the presence of the Holy Spirit. (the word **radical** comes from radix which means **root**. **Jesus knew that the root of man's problem was his sinful heart, which only he can change.**)

'I will put my **Spirit** upon Him, and He will bring justice to the nations. He will **not shout** or cry out **on the streets**. - Isaiah 42:1-2

Overcoming evil and changing the spiritual climate is not done by protesting and cursing. Darkness is overcome by light. Lawlessness and lack of love are overcome by living right and walking in love.

'**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**' - Romans 12:21

To return evil for good.....is like Satan.
To return evil for evil.....is like animal.
To return good for good.....is like mankind
To return good for evil.....is like GOD

Lawlessness will continue to abound until the end of this age, and persecution of true Jesus followers will intensify when the **lawless one** (antichrist) arrives on the scene - 2 Thessalonians 2:8, Revelation 13:7-10. This will call for **patient endurance** and **faithfulness** on the part of Christians. But they will draw comfort from the the promise of Jesus, that he will be with them to the very end of the age. They will not be lawless or without love.

This calls for **patient endurance** on the part of the saints who **obey God's commandments** and **remain faithful to Jesus**. - Revelation 14:12

During the persecution of the early church, many Romans became Christians when they saw the faith and love of the followers of Jesus. Miracles do get the attention of people, but even Satan at times can do miracles, but there is one thing he can't duplicate, it is the **love of God**. It is the most powerful force in the world, for **love never fails**. - 1 Corinthians 13:8. While we remain here on earth, we can change the spiritual climate with something which comes from God himself, **supernatural love**.

Songs on You Tube: **People Need the Lord** by Steve Green
What the world needs now is Love by Jackie DeShannon
(sometimes I played this song as background music in London during our street ministry)

Learning to love,

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