

August 2, 2025

The Way

West Valley End-Time Ministries

In This Issue

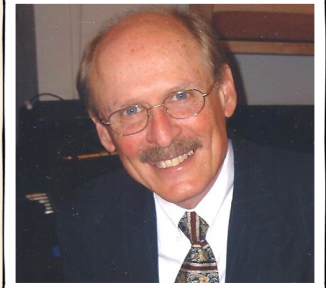
Bible Study Passage — Page 2

Honest Questions — Page 3

Prophecy In the News — Page 4

The Fox and the Rabbit — Page 6

The Gospel for the End Time — Page 8



Darrell Chilson, Pastor



Jessica Lindsey, Bible Instructor

Join Our Weekly Virtual Bible Study

Acts of the Apostles

Every Saturday 2 PM MST

WebEx Link

[Click Here!](#)

How to Support the WVM Ministry
Your Prayers
Your Participation In Class
Your Gifts — [Click to Donate](#)

Additional Resources at
WVETM.com

**The mission of
West Valley
Ministries is to
help Christ's
followers
recognize the
signs of His
approaching
return and be
prepared for
that Great Day**

Got questions?
**[WVETM.com/
Contact](http://WVETM.com/Contact)**



Bible Study

Acts 18

Ministering at Corinth

1 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. **2** And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. **3** So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. **4** And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. **5** When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. **6** But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." **7** And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. **8** Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. **9** Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; **10** "for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." **11** And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. **12** When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, **13** saying, "This fellow rsuades men to worship God contrary to the law." **14** And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. **15** "But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look [to it] yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters." **16** And he drove them from the judgment seat. **17** Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat [him] before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things.

Paul Returns to Antioch

18 So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. **19** And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. **20** When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, **21** but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus. **22** And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch. **23** After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

Ministry of Apollos

24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. **25** This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. **26** So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. **27** And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; **28** for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Honest Questions

August 2, 2025

Honest Question: How does one develop an “elevator speech” in response to potential questions people may have about the Bible, faith, and Christianity?

Bible Answer:

“But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, and **always be ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you a reason **for the hope that is in you**, with meekness and fear.” 1 Peter 3:15.

Comments: To be effective in representing Christ to anyone who may have questions about life, Bible truth, or Christian faith, **personal preparation** of one’s own heart is much more important than knowing techniques on how to approach someone or knowing what to say to them. Following are some principles of being a spontaneous voice for Christ in times when you may have only a few seconds to do it.

- 1) **Know** what you believe and why
- 2) **Pray** for **opportunity** to speak for God, for the **discernment** of the Spirit to recognize the **needs** and **openness** of people around you, **when to speak** and when to listen or be silent, **what to say** at the moment of opportunity, and how to make it **simple yet relevant**.
- 3) Remember that asking appropriate questions is often the best way to begin a conversation.
- 4) Don’t approach any potential questioner with an agenda or a canned speech.
- 5) Be sincere and caring, or don’t speak until you can be. People can tell if you have a sincere heart or if you are just “on a mission”!
- 6) Don’t be or appear nose-y, self-righteous or scripted!
- 7) Be warm in your conversation and body language, sincerely placing yourself in their shoes to understand their need or struggle. Identify/empathize with their expressed need or interest.
- 8) Don’t forget that “it is the **God** who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who **has shone in our hearts** to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. [And] **we have this treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 2 Corinthians 4:6, 7.
- 9) Finally, tell people you will pray for them if appropriate, and then do it!

Note: Some Christians are more gifted than others in initiating conversation with strangers, but every Christian should be able to respond to anyone who asks a question or opens themselves up to a brief, or lengthy, visit!

Prophecy in the News

Early last Wednesday, an 8.8 magnitude earthquake rocked Russia, sending shock waves and tsunami warnings all the way to the coasts of Japan, Hawaii, Alaska, and even the western coastline of the United States. An earthquake of this magnitude is a potentially deadly event, affecting large geographically areas. In **recent history**, there have been several large earthquakes resulting in massive destruction and significant loss of life as seen below:

The Valdivia earthquake in Chile: Also known as the Great Chilean Earthquake, occurred on May 22, **1960** and remains the most powerful earthquake ever recorded, reaching a magnitude of 9.5. It triggered a massive tsunami that caused destruction along the Chilean coast with waves up to 82 ft. The effects of the tsunami created by the earthquake reached as far as Hawaii, Japan, and the Philippines, eastern New Zealand, southeast Australia, and the Aleutian Islands. The main tsunami traveled across the Pacific Ocean and devastated Hilo, Hawaii, where waves as high as 35 ft were recorded over 6,200 mi from the epicenter. Estimates of the total number of fatalities from the earthquake and tsunamis range between 1,000 and 6,000 killed.

1964 Great Alaskan Earthquake: Occurred on March 27, **1964**, magnitude 9.2, and is the largest recorded earthquake in **U.S. history** and the second-largest earthquake recorded in the world. The earthquake was felt as far west as the Aleutian Islands some 480 miles away, and at Seattle, Washington, more than 1,200 miles to the southeast of the fault rupture, where the Space Needle swayed perceptibly. The earthquake caused rivers, lakes, and other waterways to slosh as far away as the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. Water-level recorders in 47 states—the entire Nation except for Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island— registered the earthquake. Tsunamis produced by the earthquake resulted in deaths and damage as far away as Oregon and California.

Other powerful earthquakes include:

- ♦ The **2004** Indian Ocean earthquake, magnitude 9.1. This earthquake, which occurred off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, created a devastating tsunami that spread across the Indian Ocean. The earthquake and tsunami resulted in the deaths of 230,000 people across 13 countries.
- ♦ The Kashmir Pakistan Earthquake of October 8, **2005**, magnitude 7.6. 79,000 people were killed, and it left hundreds of thousands of survivors exposed to the coming winter weather.
- ♦ The Sichuan China Earthquake of May 12, **2008**, magnitude 8.0, leaving 90,000 people dead and 5,000,000 homeless.
- ♦ The Great Peruvian Earthquake of May 31, **1970**, magnitude 7.9, leaving 70,000 dead.
- ♦ The Great Tangshan China Earthquake of July 28, **1976**, magnitude 7.5, officially reported as leaving 242,000 persons dead, but it may have been as high as 655,000. At least 700,000 more people were injured.
- ♦ The Haiti Earthquake of January 17, **2010**, magnitude 7.0, killing an estimated 300,000 people and leaving an estimated 1,500,000 survivors homeless.
- ♦ The Tohoku Japan Earthquake of March 11, **2011**, magnitude 9.1, leaving 18,000 dead and several thousand more missing. It created a tsunami that caused a major nuclear disaster, disabling 3 nuclear power plants along the coast.



Prophecy in the News

Though the earthquake of this week is not in itself a fulfillment of prophecy, in conjunction with all the others listed above, it is certainly a reminder of the prophecy of Jesus telling of the signs of His return. All the synoptic gospels record Jesus' words as told to His disciples just days before His death:

Then [Jesus] said to [His disciples], "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom [**wars/bloodshed**]. And there will be *great earthquakes in various places*, and **famines and pestilences**; and there will be **fearful sights and great signs from heaven. All these are the beginning of sorrows.**" Matthew 24:7, 8; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:10, 11.

The earthquake of last Wednesday is a harbinger of more to come that will characterize the reality that "we are living in the season of Christ's return." It's just one more piece of the prophetic puzzle confirming that Jesus is coming soon!

The Fox and the Rabbit

THE FOX AND THE RABBIT

The story is told of a fox who was wandering through the countryside one morning looking for food. As he came to the top of a knoll, he spotted a rabbit quietly nibbling on a morsel several yards downhill. The fox's mouth began to water, but being a fox, he knew he must be shrewd about how to catch the rabbit, or he would forfeit the chance to fill his belly. So, taking cover behind a tree, he rolled a small stone down the hill in the direction of the preoccupied rabbit. The rabbit was momentarily startled, but seeing only an approaching small stone, he resumed eating. After a few seconds, the fox rolled a larger stone down the hill toward the rabbit, and again the rabbit looked to make sure he wasn't in danger. Feeling safe, the rabbit turned back to continue his breakfast. The fox continued rolling larger and larger rocks down the hill, conditioning the rabbit to finally ignore the harmless rocks coming his way. Finally, the fox rolled himself up into a ball, rolled down the hill himself, and had his well-earned breakfast.

For decades, earthquakes have been a part of life for people living in earthquake country. People have become accustomed to the occasional tremors and consider them just another part of "normal." **For decades**, the immorality in our world which once shocked us has become more and more common, acceptable, "normal," and **even celebrated**. **For decades**, Christianity has been becoming more accepting of false teachings, unbiblical practice, and inclusive of religious systems identified in the Bible as false and demonic. Unity and ecumenism has trumped truth, godliness, and an uncompromised loyalty to Jesus Christ, and no one thinks anything of the accommodations which have been made to the societal changes and religious movements which are leading our world to reject truth, alter the Gospel of the Bible, and ridicule the life associated with genuine, obedient faith in Christ.

The world has slowly, insidiously, and deceptively been led to believe lies, abandon morals, and slip into a drunken stupor that will cause it to miss the signs of Jesus' soon return and instead follow after the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet of Revelation to destruction. It's happening now!

So, if things seem to be pretty much just as they always have been, please know that they aren't. Evil is in disguise as good, and evil forces are aggressively at work. Don't forget that Satan is a master of deception, showing himself as an angel of light, as do his human agents. Though today may not appear any different than yesterday, every day brings us one day closer to "the Day of the Lord" – the brief era preceding and inclusive of the day Jesus breaks through the clouds of heaven to rescue His Church – a Day which "will come as a thief in the night"!

As the Church of the last days, we cannot afford to neglect the counsel of Scripture given to us repeatedly by Christ and His apostles! The signs of Jesus' return are everywhere. Don't, for one second, allow the slow conditioning of our minds and hearts to the evil and error that is so prevalent today to steal our crown!

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and **that Day** come on you unexpectedly. For it **will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.**" Luke 21:34, 35.



The Fox and the Rabbit

“Scoffers will come in the last days saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. ... But **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.**” 2 Peter 3:3, 4.

"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and be like men who wait for their master ... Be ready, for **the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**" Luke 12: 35, 36, 40.

“Do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. **The night is far spent, the day is at hand.** Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.” Romans 13:11, 12.

Gospel for the End Time

"The Gospel for the End Time"

There is so much going on in our world today that foretells the imminent return of Jesus! Some of those things have been discussed in our previous newsletters, and there are more to be identified and elaborated upon in coming issues. But as I have been busy comparing Bible prophecy with the events of today, I suddenly realized that this piece needs more than ever to be written for my readers, and for any others who are realizing the urgency of preparing for what is breaking. **We are entering a time when our safety with Christ is going to be our greatest possession!** Nothing else, no matter how shocking or trying, will matter if our hearts are not assured of our eternal safety with God.

And for those of you who may think you're okay with God today, I can tell you that the circumstances we are about to face will test our faith to the limit. There will be great doubt in our hearts if our hope of salvation is based on **anything** other than, or in addition to, the **FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST ON OUR BEHALF!** It is because of the intensity of the crisis ahead and the need during that time to know that **NOTHING** stands between us and our Savior, that the following is so important to understand and embrace in faith! **WE WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND DURING THAT TIME, UNLESS WE ARE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF OUR STANDING WITH GOD,** and if there is **anything** of us or our spiritual virtues upon which our safety with God is based, it will fail us, and we may give up on ever being a part of that group that welcomes the return of Jesus.

THUS — this "GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL FOR END TIME CHRISTIANS" (written in the first person).

Once I was lost and without hope. Not only did my sins and failures of the past condemn me, but my very sin nature, for which I had no responsibility, condemned me. And asking God for forgiveness seemed fruitless, for the very sins for which I kept asking forgiveness continued to plague my life. As much as I "hoped" to be ready for Jesus to come one day, I knew inside I would always fall short of being ready to see Him come in peace.

Then I learned what I'm about to tell you....

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He literally became a part of our human family — my family — literally "flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone." He became one with me, in the very same way in which I have am one with Adam, reaping the consequences of his (Adam's) sin in which I had no part. Jesus' incarnation became the basis upon which His life, death, and resurrection would become my very own. Jesus became for us the "second Adam" — offering to us the credit for ALL He was and did!

For 33 years, Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience to all that God requires of humanity. He not only lived a perfect life, He was perfectly righteous in nature, without sin. Then, at the end of His life on earth as my Savior, Jesus endured Gethsemane and Calvary for MY sin/sins. Jesus' solidarity with me enabled Him to bear my sin/sins, in which He had no part, on the cross AS ME, dying my eternal death, a death He didn't deserve. He became me at Calvary, bearing my sin, dying my death.



Gospel for the End Time

And what follows is what is so amazing! My solidarity with Jesus, through faith alone, now enables me to claim AS MY OWN a righteousness that is not mine, and a perfect life AS MINE that is not mine but which meets every demand of the just Law of God — bringing for me a right standing with God, quite apart from my own efforts, which will withstand the scrutiny of the final judgment! When I, by faith alone, claimed all that Jesus was and did for me, I “passed from death to life”! Nothing can change that for me — not my fallen nature, not my faltering ways, not anything in me can ever separate me from the love and redemption that is in Christ Jesus alone!

All of this is yours too by simply claiming in faith that which Jesus did for you, as you! He lived **your life AS YOU, died **your death AS YOU**, and came forth from the grave in victory **AS YOU**. When you claim it all in faith, it becomes yours as certainly as if you had done it! That is what will give you the anchor of safety with God, never to be questioned, at a time when nothing else is sure — even life itself! That time is just ahead!**

That’s the biblical Gospel in a nutshell for end time Christians!
