

May 25, 2024

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

"Come to Me" — "Follow Me"

Sometimes Christians make following Christ a challenge to the "seeker". To those who most "need" a Savior we are often their greatest obstacle in coming to Him. It was that way when Jesus was here, and it's that way today. Jesus said of the teachers and leaders of Israel in His day, "They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders...." And to those leaders He said, "You shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in." Matthew 23: 4, 13.

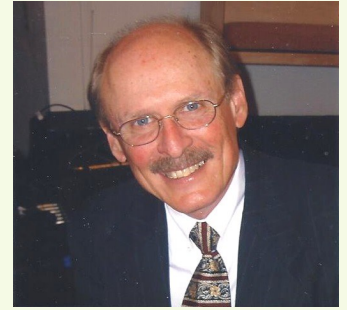
The Gospel which Jesus gave His Church to take to the world that sinners may find a Savior has been corrupted with human rules and false doctrine. Jesus made salvation simple! He said, "**Come to Me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and **learn of Me**, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28, 29. And then to make certain we understood the terms of coming to Him, He said, "The one who comes to Me I will never cast [off]." John 6:37.

When I was a young pastor, and throughout many years of my ministry, I was instructed by the leaders of the faith I represented that before I was to baptize a convert, I must instruct the person "coming" to Christ, AND joining the church (for they were synonymous), in all the doctrinal tenants of that faith — a process that took weeks of study by my student. That is not how the Church was established! On the Day of Pentecost, when 3,000 souls were baptized **in one day**, the only criteria for being baptized and becoming a part of the Church was their faith response to the Gospel they heard from Peter and the apostles **that day!**

And so it should be today. Sinners should hear from the followers of Christ the story of Jesus — His doing and dying on their behalf — and be invited to "Come" to the Savior, **just as they are**. No hoops to jump through to get to Jesus, no prerequisites to becoming a part of His body, other than the response of their hearts to His invitation. The Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, ends with the words, "The Spirit and the bride (the Church) say, '**Come!**' And let him who hears say, '**Come!**' And let him who thirsts **come**. **Whoever desires**, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.

Kevin Beshore, the senior pastor of Mariner's Church in Orange County, CA often refers to himself as a "Christ follower" — a term fitting for anyone who has responded to Christ's invitation, "Come to Me," and then to His invitation, "Follow Me."

In Him,
Pastor Chilson

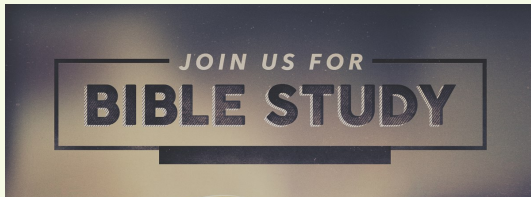


Pastor Darrell Chilson

"We are living in the season of Christ's return."

Jesus said, "Watch and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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.



THE WEDDING AT CANA

John 2 –

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **2** Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. **3** And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." **4** Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." **5** His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do [it]." **6** Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. **7** Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. **8** And He said to them, "Draw [some] out now, and take [it] to the master of the feast." And they took [it]. **9** When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. **10** And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the [guests] have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" **11** This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. **12** After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

- 1) "On the third day" — at the beginning and at the end of Jesus' ministry, and His mother was there both times! Compare John 2:1 with John 19:25.
- 2) John says that "the mother of Jesus was there." But he then says, "Jesus and His disciples were invited." Why do you suppose Mary "was there" and the others were "invited"?
- 3) Who were the disciples who went with Jesus to Cana? John 1:35-51.
- 4) Describe the relationship Mary, Jesus' mother, had with Jesus in this story.
- 5) What did Jesus mean, "My hour has not yet come"? Was Jesus' life and ministry on a predetermined timeline? See also John 7:30; 8:20; 12:23; 12:27; 13:1; 17:1; and Galatians 4:4, 5.
- 6) Twenty to thirty gallons is a lot of water! — "filled to the brim"! What would you say is the spiritual take-away in this miracle — "water" to "wine"?
- 7) What role did the "signs" Jesus did play in bringing about faith in Him? See also John 20:30.
- 8) What signs did the apostles experience as they took the message of Christ to the world? Mark 16:20.
- 9) What signs did Jesus say His followers would experience as they proclaimed His Story? Mark 16:15-18.
- 10) Will signs and wonders be used by the enemy to deceive? Matthew 24:24.



“LIKE A THIEF”

It's human nature to become comfortable, and even complacent, when everything is going well and life is somewhat what we expect it to be. Though the responsibilities of life may keep us busy, “busy” is normal for people who are productively pursuing rewarding goals and maintaining the well-being of those they love.

Paul warns, however, “You yourselves know perfectly well that **the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night**” 1 Thessalonians 5:2 — **suddenly and without warning!** (We'll talk about “the Day of the Lord” in our next issue). And Jesus said, “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed [them] all. **Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.**” Luke 17:26-30.

There's nothing in this last passage that suggests Jesus was finding fault with a life of building houses, planting gardens, or growing families. Jesus' point was that just before His return, there will be **a preoccupation with normal, busy life** that will be **SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED** by cataclysmic events, catching the comfortable, complacent, and busy world off guard and unprepared for His return and the end of life on this earth.

My family and I have lived in Arizona now for five years. When we moved here, real estate prices were affordable and the local area was comprised of quiet neighborhoods of single family homes. Local freeways cut through farmlands of cotton, cauliflower, and corn. Today, NUMEROUS, LARGE apartment complexes dominate the skyline surrounding our once quiet neighborhood, and MASSIVE industrial concrete buildings line the highways where fields used to be! If ever life was moving at a breakneck speed, as if there was no end in sight, it is now — **a time in which the fabric of our nation is rotting, and disaster is about to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise!**

If ever God's people need to be aware and attune to the voice and impressions of the Spirit of God, it is now. Paul continues in the above passage, “...But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.” And Jesus said, “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is Coming.” Matthew 24:42. As “Christ followers,” we must not allow even the “normal” of life to crowd out our focus on being right with God and ready for all that paves the way for the return of His Son!

Join us each week (2 p.m. Pacific and Arizona Time; 5 p.m. Eastern Time; 4 p.m. Central Time; 3 p.m. Mountain Time) for our class discussions. Click: <https://westvalleyend-timeministries-511.my.webex.com/meet/pastor> to join. To receive our weekly newsletter, please send an email with “Subscribe to Newsletter” in the subject line to: Pastor@wvetm.com. **HELP US BUILD OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY OF FAITH!**