**Jesus is Coming Back Soon**

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Time is short! Jesus **IS COMING BACK SOON!!!** How many times have you heard this? Way back in the 1970’s my grandmother told me that she had heard the same message all of her life and Jesus still had not returned. That is true, but, they did not have the signs that we have. Israel became a nation again in 1948. That was the biggest sign there has been! A “fig tree” represents Israel and look what Jesus said when His disciples were asking about His return;

**Matthew 24:32-39 (NLT)**

32“**Now learn a lesson from the fig tree**. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. 33In the same way, when you see **all these things**, you can know **his return is very near, right at the door**. 34I tell you the truth, **this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place.** 35Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear. 36“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. 37“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. 38In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. 39People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

We DO NOT know the day or the hour but we **SURE DO know** His return is **VERY CLOSE**! Things are happening at an **EXPONENTIAL** rate across this world.

There are a lot of people who take on the label of “Christian” but if you were arrested for being a “Christian” today, would there be enough evidence to prove, not only that you are a Christian but that you are a **“FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST?”**

Jesus even asked the following question:

Luke 18:8

,,,when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?

Paul said in 2 Thessalonians 2 that there would be a great “falling away” before Christ returns. Well, that is happening! The percentage of people who are serving the Lord in this generation is less than it has ever been.

The church is full of pastors and church members who DO NOT know the Lord Jesus Christ personally. Instead of the TRUE WORD OF GOD, which is full of POWER and WISDOM, being taught from the pulpit, most people hear a, sometimes extremely moving, philosophy lesson, sprinkled with a couple of scriptures to make it sound “spiritual” Sundays in church. How many of you go home each week and see if what your pastor taught is actually what the Word of God says just like the Bereans did in Acts 17:11?

Violence is increasing world-wide. Sexual sin, including homosexuality, fornication, adultery and pornography are rampant around the world. Innocent, unborn children are still being slaughtered by the thousands because they are “inconvenient.” Where is the CHURCH in all of this? Not only are many of our pastors not confronting these things head on but Christians, as a whole, are **SILENT** on these issues!

I, for one, am **NOT ASHAMED**! I was perishing and Jesus saved me! I was lost and Jesus found me! I was beaten, battered and bruised and Jesus healed me! Without Him, I would most likely would have died long ago!

Just like Paul, I CHOOSE to be His BOND-SLAVE, a slave of my own free will! I no longer have a will of my own but rather, a will to do what He leads me to do by His Spirit!

**Romans 1:16**
16  For **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God** unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**Mark 8:38**

If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

God has chosen **YOU and I** to live in this, the generation in which Christ returns in His power and glory! The Holy Spirit will give you the strength to be faithful to His Word and to His calling on your life. I hope you will make the decision today to be faithful in what He leads you to do and to say.

**Matthew 5:11, 12**

11“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my **followers**. 12**Be happy about it!** Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

**1 Peter 4:12-19**

12Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. 13Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. 14If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. 15If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people’s affairs. 16But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. **Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!** 17For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God’s household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God’s Good News? 18And also, “If the righteous are barely saved, what will happen to godless sinners?” 19So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, **this is NO JOKE**! **Jesus’ return is IMMINENT! IT IS AT HAND!** What a GREAT TIME to be living! Let us all fall before the Lord and ask Him to judge our hearts and let us ask Him to take out anything that is not pleasing to him. Let us pray and ask Him to use us in a mighty way to touch those around us so that they can know our precious Lord and Savior!

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