

The Last Days are Evil Days...
Just Like The Scriptures Said Would Happen...

2 Tim 4:2 **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

There aren't *many* Christians that can endure sound doctrine today! There is apostasy IN THE BODY of Christ TODAY! Many 'lukewarm' Christians want 20 minutes of *nice* little *talks* will *nice* little *stories* & *nice* little illustrations & THAT'S IT!!! They CANNOT endure sound doctrine anymore – This is THAT day!!!

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Fables...i.e.

- ❖ The AV has mistakes in it!
- ❖ The Bible is inspired only in the 'original autographs!'
- ❖ Peace is coming to earth BEFORE the 2nd Advent!
- ❖ People were saved the same way in the OT as they are in the NT!
- ❖ The Kingdom of God is the same as the Kingdom of Heaven!

All of these are FABLES!!!

Read **2 Tim 3** all of it!

Also **2 Pet 3v3+4**

I am a Bible BELIEVER 100% - I believe EVERYTHING that is in the Bible!

I never change a word of this BOOK; There is so much of this BOOK I do not understand, BUT I'll NEVER change it to say something it doesn't!

I'm a 'dispensationalist' – 2 Tim 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** If you can't 'rightly DIVIDE the Scriptures' you will fall into all kinds of problems like 'Tongues' are for today & 'Healing' is the same as it was in Jesus' day when they are clearly NOT! If you can't rightly divide the word of truth you will teach that God has finished with Israel, there is no rapture, the church will go THROUGH the Tribulation, you can lose your salvation; *plus a boat load of other heresies!*

I am also a pre-millennialist! – I'm NOT LOOKING for a SIGN i.e. the '*anti-christ*', a '*One World Church*', a '*One World Government*' or a *peace treaty in the middle-east*, nor am I looking for the Tribulation...

I'm LISTENING for a SOUND...

1 Thes 4:16 **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

17 **Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Turn to Rev 4v1...

Rev 4:1 **After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.** The words 'Come up hither' occurs a total of 3 times in the Scriptures; the other 2 being in Prov 25v7 & Rev 11:12.

This is interesting because there are 3 main raptures in the Scriptures – I'll talk about that in a minute; but let us briefly look at Rev 4v1...

When we get to Revelation chapter 4 we have reached the end of the Church Age, typified by the seven messages to the seven churches in Asia Minor. Although these messages apply *historically* to seven local churches in 90 A.D. & *doctrinally* to local churches IN the 'Tribulation', they represent, in type, the history of the Church Age, which can be seen by comparison of the first church (Ephesus), with the last church (Laodicea).

The word 'church' disappears in Rev 3v22, & is NOT mentioned again from chapter 4 – chapter 19; then we see her in Heaven at the marriage supper of the Lamb!

Note also, the Holy Spirit is spoken of as being IN THE MIDST of the churches **on earth** in Rev 2 & 3. Yet, the Spirit (spoken of as seven Spirits) is found UP IN THE THIRD HEAVEN in Rev 4v5, indicating there has been both a change in the churches' position, & in the position of the Spirit!

Note also in Rev 4v1 a door opens! – Heaven only opens TWO times in the Book of Revelation – once when somebody goes up, & in Rev 19 where somebody comes down. Notice that when the door is opened (Rev 4v1) there is a voice & a trumpet. If you will compare this passage with 1 Thes 4v15-18, there will be no doubt in your mind as to what the voice is, or what the trumpet is. This is the Lord calling somebody (in both passages), & they respond by ascending through the clouds!

The Bible teaches 3 'raptures'...

- 1) The rapture of the **OT saints** at the resurrection of Christ (Mat 27v50-54, Eph 4v8-12)
- 2) The rapture of the **NT saints** of the Church Age (1 Cor 15v49-53, 1 Thes 4v13-18)
- 3) The rapture of **Tribulation saints** at the end of the Tribulation (Mat 24 & Rev 11v12)

This means that the 'first resurrection' is the first resurrection of SAVED people, & has THREE parts to it.

This corresponds to a HARVEST as that too has three parts to it...

Paul illustrates this in 1 Cor 15 i.e. the chapter on the RESURRECTION – 1 Cor 15v22-24 – the first resurrection has THREE parts to it just like a crop has three parts to it...

Every crop has...

- 1) **First-fruits** – the first part which you pick when it gets ripe
- 2) **Harvest** – the main part that ripens later
- 3) **Gleanings** – the part that ripens at the end

Anyone who has grown tomatoes will understand this!

1 Cor 15:22 **For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

23 **But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits** (plus the OT saints); **afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.** (Rapture of the Church!)

First-fruits then the harvest – NT saints!

*(First-fruits - **But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.** 1 Cor 15v20 – So of all the people back in the OT that all died & all passed away, HE was the first one of them to get out of the grave PERMANENTLY. He is the first-fruit, 'the first begotten of the dead' (Rev 1v5), in that HE is the first man that ever came up from the dead NEVER TO DIE AGAIN!*

Lazarus came up & DIED!

Jonah came up & DIED!

*Eutychus came up & DIED!
Dorcas came up & DIED!
BUT Christ is the first man that came up NEVER TO DIE AGAIN!*

*Moses died & will come back & die again!
Elijah went up alive one time, but he will die later!
Enoch went up WITHOUT dying!*

The ONLY man that died & came up & will NEVER DIE AGAIN is Jesus Christ! He is the FIRST-FRUIT(S!)

24 Then cometh the end (after you harvest you always have some gleanings left), when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign (Millennium), till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. (i.e. Rev 20 at the end of the millennium!)

Remember '**Come up hither**' occurs THREE times in Scripture! These three references mark the THREE 'Raptures!'

- 1) Prov 25v7 would refer to the OT saints!
- 2) Rev 4v1 - John being caught up - a type of the Bride of Christ i.e. the rapture of the Church!
- 3) Rev 11v12 - regarding Moses & Elijah, would refer to a POST-Tribulation rapture of the Tribulation saints!

Going back to 2 Pet 3:3+4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

Now it's not just the world that says this to us Bible believers, some Christians are sadly turning this way & losing heart & giving up their 'blessed hope' (Titus 2v13) - they have STOPPED looking for the Lord to come back, & live as if He is NEVER coming back!!!

We are told to...wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. 1 Thes 1:10

We are told to keep...Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Titus 2:13

We are told...let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 1 Thes 5:6 Too many Christians are SLEEPING & NOT watching, NOT waiting & NOT working for the Lord Jesus Christ!

Now something hit me hard this week IN the Scriptures! I've never noticed it before & it really did HIT ME HARD! Turn with me to TWO texts in Revelation...

Re 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Re 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Twice in the Book of the Revelation does it mention about God wiping away tears; both occur AFTER the Church Age is over!

Now there are NO tears in ETERNITY BUT there WILL BE tears IN HEAVEN! Eternity is just beginning in Revelation 21.

In Rev 21v4, when God wipes away tears, the context is immediately following the 'judgement of the unsaved dead' (Rev 20v12-15). God doesn't wipe away tears for the FINAL time until AFTER the Great White Throne Judgement!

In Rev 7v17, tears are not wiped away until the end of the Tribulation! This means that at the end of the Church Age, the Body of Christ is going to be 'caught out' & 'caught up', & while the Tribulation takes place down on this earth, The Body of Christ is going to be judged at the 'Judgment Seat of Christ' in Heaven.

Now I realize that we are NOT judged for our SIN at the Judgement Seat of Christ; that took place on Calvary when the Lord Jesus Christ became our substitute!

So the TWO places when tears are wiped away occur...

- 1) Following the Judgment Seat of Christ
- 2) Following the Great White Throne judgment

This means that born-again Christians (maybe you & ME!) will be weeping at the Judgment Seat of Christ & the Great White Throne judgment!

Why?

At the judgment Seat of Christ... Realizing what we could & SHOULD have done with our life on earth! **Not REALLY LIVING for the Lord!** All the missed opportunities, all the rewards LOST because of what we didn't DO! Lost crowns!

At the Great White Throne judgment – When we see unsaved people, our LOVED ones, to whom we could have witnessed to, perishing & going to HELL because you & ME NEVER tried to reach them with the Gospel! We shall see them cast AWAY from the Lord, & FROM us, into the Lake of Fire!

No, God's people aren't through with tears UNTIL Rev 21.

The moral of these TWO verses is...

DO THE BEST YOU CAN & ALL YOU CAN FOR THE LORD JESUS NOW!

DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO WIN SOULS TO JESUS CHRIST NOW!

Even if people hate you for it – DO WHAT YOU CAN, & then leave it with the Lord!

Those verses hit me so hard this week it hurt!

Getting back to it...

Mark 13:35 **Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:**

36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

So we ALL ought to be waiting & WATCHING for the Lord Jesus Christ to come & take us **up out of here** at the Rapture! *But are we?*

And while we are waiting & watching, this **present evil world** (Gal 1v4), this **crooked and perverse nation** (Phil 2v15), **this adulterous and sinful generation** (Mark 8v38) is getting worse & worse!

Let us go back to 2 Tim 3...

What we have here is a warning that the basic sins of the Adamic nature, *our carnal flesh*, will increase as time goes by, & in the days leading up to the rapture, these sins will INTENSIFY & become the normal everyday living conditions of the world! Remember YOU are IN the world but NOT OF the world! (John 17v11&16)

Note, one of the greatest signs that we are living in the 'Last Days', i.e. the Laodicean age, is APOSTASY (*An abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, or departure from one's faith or religion*)

At the end of the Church Age Christ is OUTSIDE the door with it SHUT! It is a lukewarm church, it is indifferent towards Christ, it IS 'tolerant' of SIN & EVIL! **The church preceding the Rapture is lukewarm, wretched, miserable, blind & naked!**

Twenty Four hours a day, seven days a week the world is constantly bombarded by Satan's devices (2 Cor 2v11). He is brainwashing the world, blinding the world; [he is god of this world](#) - **In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.** 2 Cor 4v4

We, as Christians, have a job to do, & that is to reach the blind & lost souls of this world with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; **before it's too late!**

2 Tim 3v1 – perilous times shall come! (Perilous - Dangerous; hazardous; full of risk). We are living in dangerous days, a volcano awaiting to erupt! People are scared today, fear is everywhere! We are living in perilous times!

2 Tim 3v2

- ❖ **Lovers of their own selves** – what a self promoting world we live in. Everything must be 'positive!' You can do it, you are master of your own destiny! (I've recently bought a book called the 'power of NEGATIVE' thinking! – we need more of this!) The Bible is a NEGATIVE Book in many ways; it's a mirror & when you read it you see yourself for who you REALLY ARE – a HELL DESERVING SINNER who is lost & hopeless without God!
- ❖ **Covetous** – Read Col 3v1-5 – Note v2 set your affection on things ABOVE, NOT on things on the earth! Also, v5 'covetousness' is idolatry! **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.** Mat 6v21
- ❖ **Boasters** - **But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.** Gal 6v14 – IF ONLY! We love to boast & tell people what WE have done, what WE have 'earned'; we love to push ourselves forward! Forbid it Lord that I should boast...save in the death of Christ my God!
- ❖ **Proud** – Gal 6:3 **For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.** *Very similar to boast!*
- ❖ **Blasphemers** – how open & bold sinners have become in blaspheming the Lord. Stage plays, TV programmes, filth & lies about Almighty God! No fear of God anymore, *but they will!*
- ❖ **Disobedient to parents** – a generation of ill mannered, non-disciplined, lazy, youngsters who detest authority of any kind! Children are being FED on TV & computer games; fantasy! They are FEEDING on the world!

Pro 22:6+15 **Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.**

Pro 13:24 **He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.** (*Betimes - Seasonably; in good season or time; before it is late*)

Pro 19:18 **Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.**

Some children have always disobeyed their parents, but Paul is not talking about occasional sins by individuals: he is talking about 'MEN' (v1) in the LAST DAYS! This was NOT a worldwide characteristic of Timothy's day; it wasn't a general thing even in the 1920's to 1940's - it is directed at the LAST DAYS!

- ❖ **Unthankful** - Speaks for itself! Hardly anyone today is thankful ESPECIALLY to God!
- ❖ **Unholy** - those that show no interest in God, the Bible, the church, or anything spiritual.

Because of time let us push on...

2 Tim 3:3 **Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good...**

Without natural affection - Note without NATURAL affection i.e. unnatural. We live in a sex crazed society; there is 'stuff' happening out there in this evil world that we just couldn't mention inside or **outside** of church! The world is saturated in lust & sex. We are living in a filthy & perverse world!

Trucebreakers - There is hardly anyone, IF ANYONE, I know who KEEPS their word; who keeps to the promises they make! Someone has written 'There isn't one treaty signed in the last 500 years that is worth the paper it's written on!' Lying is the 'norm' today, get away with what you can. *You can't tell the truth 100% of the time everyone bends the rules! Do YOU?*

False accusers -

- ❖ The AV has mistakes in it!
- ❖ The Bible has contradictions in it!
- ❖ Creationism is mythology!
- ❖ Fanatical Christians who BELIEVE the Bible 100% are dangerous!
- ❖ He hates gays because he preaches against sodomy!
- ❖ He hates women because he preaches against feminism!
- ❖ Bible believers cause division everywhere; they should learn that to compromise is better for society & the church!
- ❖ He's an angry, opinionated young man that goes around causing division because of his stubbornness & independence!
- ❖ He preaches too hard & harsh!

You know the stuff I'm talking about! False accusers EVERYWHERE, **inside** & outside of the church!

Incontinent - 2 Pet 2:14 **Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin... No self control! Cannot cease from sin, addicted to it!**

John 8:34 **Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**

Jer 5:8 **They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife.**

Ro 1:26 **For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:**

27 **And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.**

28 **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;**

29 **Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,**
30 **Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,**
31 **Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:**
32 **Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.**

People say to me 'don't get too *down or depressed*, it's not that bad!' – I'm telling you it IS THAT BAD! It's getting worse & worse & will do until the Lord Jesus Christ returns!

Luke 18:8...**Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**
People talk about worldwide revival – they isn't going to be one! It will get worse & worse UNTIL the Rapture!

Fierce – (The primary sense of which is wild, Vehement; violent; furious; Savage; ravenous; easily enraged; eager of mischief) – We live in a fierce world. Even so called discussions/debates I've had with some Christians have been 'fierce!'

Despisers of those that are good – Isn't it strange that some people hate other people for DOING GOOD! Jer 17:9 **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? *Who do you despise?*** Is it because YOU are jealous of THEM? We should DO GOOD, we are called to DO GOOD - Rom 12:20+21 **Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

We should DO GOOD even to our enemies...

1 Sam 24:17 **And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.**

18 **And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.**

19 **For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day.**

2 Tim 3:4 **Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**

Traitors - *One who violates his allegiance and betrays his country; one guilty of treason; one who, in breach of trust, delivers his country to its enemy, or any fort or place entrusted to his defense, or who surrenders an army or body of troops to the enemy, unless when vanquished; or one who takes arms and levies war against his country; or one who aids an enemy in conquering his country. One who betrays his trust.* Are YOU betraying your trust to the Lord to your friends, to your wife or husband? etc?

Heady, highminded – egomaniacs! Megalomaniacs! Self-centred, self-worshipping, self-loving...

Listen to these great verses...

Rom 12:3 **For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

1 Cor 4:6 **And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.**

Rom 11:20 **Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:**

1 Pet 5:6 **Humble yourselves** therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Don't be big-headed, high-minded, heady! Humble yourself & keep close to the Lord!

Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God – We could spend hours with illustrations etc. This world is bent on pleasure! *...If you're happy!!!* Everything & anything BUT God! *Church is boring the Bible is boring – MY SIN is much more exciting!* Billions is spent on entertainment every year – entertaining ourselves, TV, movies, computers, 'wining & dining', clubs, bars, holidays, hobbies, sports etc. I wonder how much money YOU give TO GOD! How much do YOU give to 'getting the word out', evangelism, missionaries etc. *"But I tithe!!!"* **Is that all???**

2 Tim 3:5 **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.** Religion, 'CHURCH', 'spirituality', the 'inner man', 'finding yourself!' etc. etc. Millions PROFESS a form of 'godliness', religion looks good, BUT, there is NO power – DEAD! *'Oh yeah I'm a Christian!'* – yet they bear NO fruit, their lifestyle is that of the world – why? Because they ARE OF THE WORLD!

I don't want a FORM of godliness – I want the truth, I want to KNOW God!

A church may have a piano, organ, pulpit; it may be a lovely looking building. There may be a choir, lots of smiles, a 'hand-shaking' lovely man as a pastor, a congregation with folded hands & 'reverential attention', you may even find a King James Bible! – It may ALL look good & right... ***BUT the Holy Spirit isn't there! There is no presence of God & NO power!***

Showmanship is NOT Godliness!

It may ALL look the part; all look RIGHT & holy – yet the church could be DEAD! **Having a form of godliness...**

Let me skip 2 Tim 3v6 & go straight onto v7 to finish...

2 Ti 3:7 **Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

Think of all the different sects, cults, religions, organisations! Add them all up, every member & you can apply this verse to them...

'Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.'

You can LEARN all your life; give all your time to pursuing knowledge, 'cures' for diseases, studying genetics, bio-chemistry, you can become a top physicist, work for NASA, research the hidden 'mysteries' of the universe etc. **& still go to hell when you die!**

EDUCATION, WITHOUT SALVATION, IS DAMNATION!

Amen.