

Storms On the Horizon: Preparing for Perilous Times

2 Timothy 3.1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-5, 9-11

Coastal residents know the danger of hurricanes, and prepare for them. In the same way, Christians must be alert, understand the times, and be wise. The common denominator of those who falter in faith is not discovery of *new truth*, but an erosion of *any truth*. It can happen to you. Be prepared.

Storms on the Horizon

- From Relativism to Nonsense to AI: Road to Mindlessness
- From Convictions to Beliefs to Opinions: Road to Deconstruction

Preparing for Perilous Times

- ‘Understand the Times’ and ‘Number Your Days’
- Walk in Wisdom (Ephesians 5.15-21)
 - *Make the most of the time*
 - *Be filled with the Spirit*
 - *Have regular spiritual fellowship*
- Make God’s Word a priority (2 Timothy 2.15)

**Don’t be misled – you cannot mock the justice of God.
You will always harvest what you plant.**

Galatians 6.7



1. Scripture has much to say about the last days – what the world will be like in the days preceding the events of 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18, when Jesus Christ descends from heaven and takes all who are His to be with Him forever. Throughout the centuries, Christians have often viewed their times as the “last days.” What do you think? To get a biblical picture, read Matthew 24.4-8; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; 2 Thessalonians 2.1-12; 2 Timothy 3.1-7; 4.1-5; 2 Peter 3.3-10.
2. It can be very discouraging to look closely at our world: The loss of moral or ethical standards has left younger generations without any rational basis for meaning and purpose in life, and caused those who are older to disengage with the world. This is why it is of paramount importance for Christians, young and old, to “understand the times.” If possible, get together with other Christians and discuss both what is happening in our world, and why. How did we get here? Where is it leading? Can you see the ‘fingerprints of Satan’ on events?
3. It’s been said that “Christians are so heavenly minded, they’re no earthly good.” While that may sometimes be true, it’s also possible for Christians to be so earthly minded, they’re no heavenly good! Read Psalm 90 (if you can, read it in a few different translations). What is Moses’ focus in this psalm? What attributes of God are on display? After a long section exalting God, Moses’ request in verse 12 is succinct. What does it mean to ‘number our days’? What are Moses’ ‘follow-up’ requests in verses 13-17?
4. Ephesians 4-6 is chock full of exhortations to Christians. Take time to read all three chapters this week! The climax of Paul’s general exhortations is in Eph. 5.15-21. What practical applications for your spiritual life can you identify in these verses?
5. In the world today, the idea of any ‘absolute truth’ has been rejected. This is also true in many ‘Christian’ institutions. In stark contrast to this, Scripture declares its absolute authority (cf. Isa. 40.8; Mt. 5.18; Jn. 17.17; 2 Tim. 3.16-17; Heb. 4.12). Do you read your Bible every day? Are you letting it change your life?

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