

“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich ; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love I chasten; be zealous therefore and repent. Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man will hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Rev. 3:18-20

GOD’S FIRE IS COMING

by Craig Marlatt

If you have ever wondered before whether or not these are really the last days you should have very little doubt now. The world is in chaos and we could be standing on the brink of the fulfilment of the events that will usher in the return of Jesus Christ. The Jews have been brought back into their homeland from the four corners of the earth as Jeremiah predicted they would in the Old Testament (Jer. 31:7-14; Ezek 37:21, 22). The distress of the times we are living in has made heart disease the number one cause of death, and suicide is on the rise just as the Lord predicted in Luke 21:25,26.

I believe that legalized abortion is a direct fulfilment of the last prophecy that Jesus gave as He walked up the hill to Golgotha bearing the cross of his death saying, “Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For behold the days are coming in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us” (Luke 23:28-30).

False prophets cover the land with their doctrines, leading many astray (Mt. 24:11; 2 Pet. 2:1). The humanistic self-love boom that has taken the western world by storm is mentioned in 2 Tim. 2:1-7, along with a host of other things so prevalent in the world today like perilous (dangerous) times, greed, blasphemy, rebellious children, seducing and deceptive religious leaders, etc. Let’s face it! You would have to not want to see reality to miss the things that are going on around us. The daily newspaper almost reads like a Bible these days!

Modern technology has not gone unused by the Church, and there has been a tremendous awakening among Christians through the use of television and other media technology. The world now knows that we are here, and the results of that visibility have been both good and bad:

1. Good - because there has been much happening in the Church around the world that is worthy of high visibility, and because it enables Christians throughout the world to have a visible awareness of the invisible communion that occurs among God’s people everywhere. It also gives the average congregation or person the potential of having especially gifted teachers and preachers in their own church or home through radio and television.

2. Bad - because much of what goes on in the Church is not good and our mistakes and problems become open to public review and criticism, since the media is not restricted to those who teach and preach sound doctrine, but is available to all, saint and heretic alike.

In light of these things I believe that it is of utmost importance to every Christian

to make sure that they are standing firmly upon the Rock, Jesus Christ. Whatever your denominational doctrines might be concerning eschatology, the Tribulation, rapture, etc., it is implicitly important that you know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of your life; that you know for certain you have been 'born again' through faith in Jesus Christ.

There are many things about the Bible and spiritual things in general that are somewhat hidden because ". . . now we see through a glass darkly" (1 Cor. 13:12). Indeed I doubt, in this life, if the Church will ever agree on all the doctrines and truths which the word of God contains. But the one thing we can know is this: whether or not we are born again; whether or not we indeed have eternal life. John writes, "These things have I written that ye may know that ye have eternal life" (1 Jn 5:13).

God's judgement will come and it is not old fashioned to think so, but rather it is wisdom. He will bring to an end all of the vanity and evil of man and establish a kingdom of righteousness, joy and peace. The world itself is aching for that moment when the sons of God will be manifested, and the creature will again be whole heartedly in line with the will of it's Creator.