

## How Should We Then Live? III

By Greg Rangel

It has been said time and time again that there is a big difference between those who truly know their Lord Jesus and those who simply have a religion by the way they live. And that is so true. Jesus taught this fact through many different illustrations (Matt. 7:16-27).

I strongly believe that those who truly believe on the Lord Jesus will live a godly life because they strongly believe that the Lord can return at any moment. Unfortunately those who do not believe in the Lord will mock these words and will also mock the belief that we are living in the last days. For that reason they will continue to live in their sins, and at the same time say they believe in God.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:32-33 *“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.”* In other words, look at the signs of the times. We are now seeing many of the things that Jesus spoke about come to pass. We have seen nations rising against nations. We have heard of wars and rumors of wars. We have seen the rise of persecution. The rise of false prophets. We also have seen the rise of famines, earthquakes, and pestilences. And now we are seeing that the world is looking for a One World Government and a One World domination leader.

We are approaching the very day when Jesus will come back for the church, after which the tribulation will take place, and then when Jesus once again returns to judge this earth and the inhabitants thereof. For that reason we must live according to God’s will and not our own. Paul wrote *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof”* (Romans 13:12-14). Unfortunately there will be many that will be left behind when the Lord comes back for His church because their lifestyle was more important to them than the things of the Lord. Paul also wrote.

Time and time again do we have repeated warnings in Scripture of the soon return of Jesus. Peter wrote, 1Pe 4:7 *“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer”* (1 Pet. 4:7). Jesus said, *“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come... Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”* (Matt. 24:42, 25:13).

Knowing that the soon return of Jesus can take place at any moment, how should we then live? As Christian author Francis Schaeffer wrote, “There is a flow to history and culture. This flow is rooted and has its wellspring in the thoughts of people. People are unique in the inner life of the mind – what they are in their thought world determines how they act. This is true of their value systems and it is true of their creativity. It is true of their corporate actions, such as political decisions, and it is true of their personal lives. The results of their thought world flow through

their fingers or from their tongues into the external world....” This is what Jesus meant when He said, “*A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things,*” (Matthew 12:35).

What if you knew that Jesus was to come back today at a certain hour? How would you act? What would you change in your life? What would you stop doing? Well, Jesus might or might not come back today or tomorrow, but one day He will. And it will catch many by surprise. But before you begin to mock these words, do you know that the end of the world is today for many people because they are dying? And one day we too will die. Knowing this, how should we then live?