

July 17, 2011

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Monday

Mark 13:32 "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."

I know that there are some difficult-to-understand scriptures passages, some passages that take real study, meditation, and prayer. There are some passages that you simply will not fathom without the help of a competent teacher. *THIS IS NOT ONE OF THEM!* So why do people of every generation allow themselves to be deceived by some charlatan claiming to have figured out the latest set of numbers, codes, or secret knowledge? Because their focus is wrong! Instead of spending their time and effort in winning the lost and telling the story of Jesus, they allow themselves to be duped by Satan's ruse of unprofitable date setting? Don't be a prophecy glutton becoming so fat with false knowledge and speculation that you can't waddle across the street to tell a neighbor the Good News of Salvation.

Tuesday

Mark 13:5 And Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one misleads you."

End time predictions have long been a ground fertile for deceit, misinformation, and foolishness. Individuals and whole denominations have been swept up in unprofitable speculation, even dangerous date setting. At times the whole church has been colored by the stains of foolish painters of end time portrayals. How will you avoid such foolishness? Focus on the things to which God gives focus. Know that the promise of Jesus' coming is certain and sure, but your job is not to focus upon the time or even the scenes of His coming. Your job is to make preparation through witness and missions.

Wednesday

Mark 13:7 "When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end."

Fear is a paralyzing emotion. The disciples knew fear intimately, even better than you do. When they contemplated the future, with its uncertainty and prophecies of persecution, they knew nothing of God's "Comforter", the Holy Spirit. When Jesus died upon the cross, they thought the worst of the worst had come. You though, you know better. You know that God works all things together for the good (Rom. 8:28). You know that Jesus will never leave nor forsake you (Heb. 13:5). Do not live in fear! As a believer, believe that God is in control (John 14:1).

Thursday

Mark 13:10 "The gospel must first be preached to all the nations."

Do you long for Jesus' return? Do you want to see God's glorious Kingdom come, all wrong is defeated, death powerless? Do you long for that time when sin no longer breaks apart families or breaks down lives? Then get busy in missions and evangelism, for the gospel must first be preached to all nations! Everything you do to tell others about Jesus, every dollar you send, every mission trip you participate in, every prayer you pray for the lost has a direct impact upon the return of Jesus. Here it is. Read it well. "The gospel *must first* be preached to all nations!"

Friday

Mark 13:33 "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come."

So, what would you do differently if you knew Jesus would return for you today? What would you take care of today, if you knew that Jesus would return next week? What would your priorities be, if you knew that Jesus coming was to happen within the next year? God's call on your life is to live as if you knew He were coming right away, immediately. A focus on the fast approaching coming of the King sets your priorities in order. What will the King catch you doing when He comes? He very well may find you doing exactly whatever you are doing TODAY!