

Newsbytes

The First Watch

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

So, some might see this first one as a bit harsh - but it's ultimately hopeful. No cultural fairy dust in this article but our hope is in heaven, not here. It will either be a wake-up call or some will say, "I've been saying this for years!". Either way, it's not about this life and we have to live like it.

We're not going to win.

MARCH 2, 2019 / C.H. FISHER

Christians that realize the evil faction attacking our nation is growing more powerful and brutal by the day. They are at their wits end about what to do. Some of them have put their hope in President Trump because the alternative is depressing and hopeless. That alternative is to hope that Christianity awakens and becomes a moral force again. Rife with heretics and other charlatans, and inundated with apostasy, it is not likely to occur.

For the ministers labeled “watchmen,” discernment ministers, truth speakers, et cetera, it even gets more stressful. When the watchmen speak, few people are willing to listen. Churches refuse to invite them because they “depress” the congregants. They are pushed so far out of mainstream Christianity that they have no pastorates. It came to mind recently that if the leaders in Christianity opposed the apostasy as they should, many pastors, TV hosts, authors, et al, would be working at menial secular jobs. The majority have never held a secular job and have no skills or qualifications.

There is a small, very loosely connected, army on the Internet who to the best of their abilities are trying to warn the sleepers. They write on social media, some of them have blogs or websites, and other ones have managed to get published. It takes a lot of work and time researching and writing to expose the deep wickedness of any serious deception or developing heresy. They write posts that few people take the time to read. Additionally, the percentage is very small of the ones that read, make a comment, or click “like.” It is a fact in this text-message, Instagram, world that most people will not read anything over two paragraphs.

Adding to the burden is the number of heretic-lovers armed with keyboards, lacking knowledge and discernment, and in most cases deceived or delusional. They attack watchmen and anyone else that dares expose their beloved heretic to the light of truth. One never witnesses them defend truth, they never write anything that agrees with God's word, or hints of opposing the encroaching darkness. One cannot have a cordial discussion with them. They have no respect for seasoned servants of God. They are convinced that light is darkness and darkness is light. One may as well try to convince a goat that is attempting to eat

a piece of roofing that grass is much better.

So the battle within the battle is a continual wrestling match with hopelessness, discouragement, stress, frustration, and even depression. There is little return in this life on their investment, and it certainly is not financially profitable. Many of them have simply given up trying to warn or inform anyone. They are withdrawing from anything that can remind them of how strong and rapid the darkness is approaching. Discernment ministers have shut down their websites and blogs and have ceased posting on social media. It is not a calling for the faint hearted and no one can do the job that does not pray much and often.

God enables, but we must not hinder Him by thinking that the sum of the burden must rest on our shoulders. If the reward was in this life then there would not be so much emphasis on heaven and the straight path that leads beyond the temporal realm. If the rewards are of this realm, then why is there still a race? Why is there a prize yet to be received? Why is there a finish line?

If we are going to endure and rise above the suffocating cloud of despair and all its ingredients, we must come to grips with a brutal fact. It is only brutal because the natural mind does not wish to hear and much less accept it. We are not going to “win” in this temporal realm. I realize that is one statement that will evoke protests and even some harsh responses. However, Christ said as much to His disciples. The disciples believed they would “win.” They believed at that time that Christ would become King over an earthly kingdom and restore Israel to her former greatness. Christ defined “win” as being publicly humiliated, falsely accused and convicted, being beaten nearly to death, and cruelly dying on a cross, and then rising from the dead.

The key word is “win. If by “win” we mean that we’re going to drive evil back into its lair, end abortion and other diabolically insensible acts, have a totally Conservative SCOTUS, and MAGA with a majority that respects Judeo-Christian values, then no, we’re not going to “win.”

If by “win” we mean that the heretics and other charlatans will be ejected from Christianity, that professing Christians will become passionate lovers of truth, that integrity and godliness will again become hallmarks from the pulpits to the pews, that fire kindled by intimacy with God, the unction to win souls, praying, fasting, and repenting, will be revived, we’re not going to “win.”

If we mean by “win” that we will sanitize TV and Hollywood, the Internet will become a decent place, the porn industry will be destroyed, our schools will again become safe, pedophiles and other sexual perverts will disappear, the drug epidemic will end, children will be safe on the streets, hunger and homelessness will cease, crime will be reduced to a trickle, atheism will be rejected from Universities, politics will become civil and ethical, terrorism will cease, God will be respected in the secular realm, et cetera, absolutely no—we are not going to “win.”

However, if we believe that “win” means that we will remain faithful to the end, that we will endure by faith without compromising, overcome by the blood of the Lamb and word of our testimonies, and receive a crown of life, then yes, we are going to win. We were created too big for this world. Satan wants to shrink us down in our minds so that we regard the temporal realm as the “heaven” that it is not. Instead, it is the domain of Satan—the god of this world—who has blinded the minds of billions that believe his lies and are rooted in his earthly, sensual, and demonic wisdom. (2 Corinthians 4:4; James 3:15)

I encourage every watchman, truth speakers, and writers, discernment ministers, prophets, to encourage yourselves with the right perspective. The only “kudo” worth longing for is the one you will hear from God when He says, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” (2 Peter 3:13)

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” (Philippians 3:20-21)

So what if no one recognizes you or says anything encouraging to keep you going. Only eternity will reveal the fruit of all your efforts. You labor because you are called, not because you are accepted and treated with respect. Thus, keep warning when few people listen. Keep writing when only a small fraction of the Remnant will read. And keep trying to get people prepared when your words are smothered or drowned out by frivolous chatter.

The reality is that you do it because God will have a voice right up until the first installment of judgment is delivered. They killed the prophets during the apostasies of Israel, but God had a voice until they were all silenced. They killed faithful Antipas (Revelation 1:13) Who was Antipas? No one knows, but God remembered him. To the apostate religious world and Satan, Antipas lost. But ask Antipas or God if he lost. Are you an “Antipas?” God knows.

The citizens of this world will more vehemently reject the watchmen, truth speakers, and prophets. The watchmen will irritate the cold and casual Christians, and apostates will scorn and join the world in killing them. They will kill them until none are left but two witnesses—prophets—that they will not be able to kill no matter how much they try until they are finished prophesying. Then they will be murdered and lie in the street for three days.

Will people declare that they won? No, they will laugh, sin, and celebrate the deaths of the final voices against their wickedness.

However, just as Christ, three days later they will rise from the dead and be transported to heaven and eternal life! I call that a win! Then the ultimate victory—the eternal win—will be registered by Christ by wrath poured out on this world drunk on the blood of the martyrs.

The task at hand is to redefine “win” so that it agrees with God’s definition. I hereby remove the word “not” from the title of this article. We’re going to win!

Dealing with Deceit – The Pre-Wrath Deception

February 24, 2019

By Bill Perkins

“Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44b).

I get letters and phone calls ... One of the few downsides to my job here at Compass is that pretty much weekly I have someone new trying to convince me that the Rapture will somehow not happen at the end of the Church Age, but rather, happen sometime during the seven-year Tribulation period.

I get phone calls, letters, charts, tapes, books and videos all arguing the Mid-Trib Post-Trib or Pre-Wrath positions. These impassioned people are usually so convinced their position is correct, and that my position is wrong, they think I should spend hours on end listening to and debating them.

For the record, I think the book The Pre-wrath Rapture of the Church has caused the Body of Christ a great deal of pain and confusion. I think the author means well, but the book promotes, in my opinion, heresy.

I feel badly for people deceived by this teaching because I too was once deceived into believing the “Pre-Wrath” argument. When I was a new believer in the 1970s, I was taught by my well-meaning pastor that “Mid-Trib” Rapture was a fact, not a theory. He gave all the same arguments I hear today, usually centered in some shape, form or fashion around these two incorrect premises:

“We’re saved only from God’s wrath.”

“Pre-Wrathers” believe that “God’s wrath” comes only in the last 3.5 years of the tribulation—erroneously believing that the first 3.5 years are not actually “God’s wrath.”

That is, of course, ridiculous! The entire seven-year Tribulation period is called “The time of Jacob’s Trouble.” Good grief, in the first 3.5 years there’s worldwide economic collapse, famine and one-fourth of the earth dies...that sure sounds like “God’s wrath” to me!

“We need to prepare for the inevitable”:

“Pre-Wrathers believe they should plan for the worst-case scenario because if they’re wrong, they conclude it won’t matter. But if they’re right, they’ll be prepared.

This is a horrible way to live. Instead of living boldly for the Lord, knowing He is coming to take us home, the Pre-Wrathers worry about the Antichrist coming. One of the cornerstones of Bible prophecy doctrine is that we’re to keep our eyes looking up to heaven, to our future home, not down on this earth. We are to look for Jesus, not the Antichrist.

“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Colossians 3:2)

I eventually moved on from my first church, which also tended to border on legalism-common among Pre-Wrathers. And as I continued to read my Bible through the years, the more I could not scripturally defend the Mid-Trib position, or its close cousin, “Pre-Wrath.”

Noah Knows

The Bible declares that the time before the Rapture would be JUST LIKE the days before Noah’s flood. And then Scripture lists the characteristics of that day that our day will be “just like.” It couldn’t be any clearer.

“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:37-39, emphasis added).

Before the flood it was “business as usual” with parties, food, building-until God shut the door, which is the symbolic equivalent of the Rapture. This biblical truth has to be patently ignored by those holding to a “Pre-Wrath” position.

To accept “Pre-Wrath” you have to say the first 3.5 years of the 70th Week of Daniel is no different than today. Really?

In the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation, Revelation 6 says the earth is in chaos, the worldwide economy collapses and inflation is so rampant it takes a day’s wage just to buy food. Not to mention all this causes 1/4 of the earth to die from war and wild beasts! Does that sound like Jesus’ description of the Days of Noah? Hardly!

The Inerrant Word of God: The biggest problem with anything but a Pre-Tribulational Rapture is that you have to abandon using biblical dispensations to interpret Scripture. This is the purest of all doctrines because it's rooted in using a literal hermeneutic to interpret Scripture.

The Bible is meant to be read literally, in context. Jesus took the Old Testament literally when He talked about Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark and Jonah being swallowed by the great fish. And all past prophecies were fulfilled literally, not figuratively. Therefore we should also take the Bible literally, in context. Applying dispensations gives us that context.

For instance, the Bible says four times that the millennial reign of Christ on earth lasts 1000 years (Rev. 20:4-7). That doesn't mean the 1000 years is symbolic for a "long period of time." It means what it says... it will last 1000 years. If you try to make it symbolic for a long period time, you're injecting man's sinfully tainted understanding into the interpretation.

The Bible also says that in the Millennium, the wolf and the lamb will lie in the grass together. Things will change and there will be no carnivorous instincts of animals (Isa. 11:6). This is another proof we're NOT in the Millennium today. Yet the official doctrines of the Presbyterian, Lutheran, Church of Christ and Catholic denominations (and many others) promote that heresy.

God doesn't change, but He certainly does change how He deals with people through the different ages or time periods throughout history. God never changes, he just changes how He deals with people on earth. You can't argue that God didn't change through time how He dealt with or will deal with people on the earth because He says so in Scripture:

- 1) Before and after the fall of mankind;
- 2) Before and after the Flood;
- 3) Before and after the Tower of Babel;
- 4) Before and after the Cross;
- 5) Before and after the Rapture;
- 6) Before and after the Second Coming;
- 7) Before and after the Great White Throne Judgment.

Therefore it is a FACT that God DOES change how He deals with people on the earth at different times through the ages. Dividing the Bible into biblical dispensations for context simply recognizes and applies this fact to scriptural interpretation. And it clears up so many seemingly conflicting Scriptures.

Paul refers to the current Church Age dispensation, as an "administration" and that was hidden to the Jews, but now revealed:

"...and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things" (Ephesians 3:9).

Properly understanding and applying how God views the different time periods, literally changed my life. Understanding dispensations allowed me to know when and where to apply every verse of scripture. Without properly applying dispensations to understand the context of what the Lord is saying in scripture, you're a ship without a rudder.

“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming” (Ephesians 4:14).

The “Church Age,” the dispensation in which we live, only began after Jesus’ death and resurrection. It began when the Holy Spirit came to earth and the Church Age will end at time of the Rapture.

I think it’s better to think of the gospels as being the end of the Old Testament rather than the beginning of the New Testament. Only then can you fully appreciate the incredible Church Age characteristics. It’s a special time on God’s timeline unlike any other. As Peter said:

“...just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:15-16).

One key characteristic of dispensational theology is that the dispensational time periods can’t overlap. A dispensation, by definition, must end before the next time dispensation can begin on God’s calendar.

But the Pre-Wrath view has the Church Age crossing over into the Tribulation, into a new dispensation. That’s absurd! You can’t have two dispensations going on concurrently. But the biggest downside to the “Pre-Wrath” theory is that it robs believers of the joy and expectation of the coming Rapture. The end of the Church Age is something to look forward to, not fear. We are to look for Jesus Christ, not the Antichrist!

“... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

And lastly, here’s one more problem with pre-wrath that is laughable. The “pre-wrath” Rapture view says that we, the bride of Christ, will go through the first 3.5 years of Tribulation, meaning, we’ll be severely persecuted before our wedding day with the Lord.

Really? Do you actually believe the Lord will unload on the Church-the bride of Christ, death and destruction, tearing us apart limb from limb, just before He marries us? Oh good grief! Not much to look forward to there!

No, we, the “bride of Christ,” are to look forward to our marriage to the God of Love.

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready” (Rev. 19:7).

These are just a few of the problems with the “pre-wrath” theory. There are many more-too many to write about.

I don't claim to completely understand all the implications of this but I do know that players are playing and connivers are conniving, same as in the US but different. Freedom on this globe - that door is closing fast. The west is under attack. I sense an apocalypse.

Tony Blair 'secretly advising French president Emmanuel Macron to keep Britain in the EU'

Ross McGuinness Yahoo News March 11, 2019

Tony Blair has been advising Emmanuel Macron about how to keep Britain in the European Union, it has been reported.

The former prime minister has been briefing the French president on how to fight Brexit, The Telegraph said. The newspaper said sources in Paris had confirmed that Mr Blair has been talking to Mr Macron about Brexit. Mr Blair is reported to have told Mr Macron to "hold firm" while events play out in the UK.

Parliament is set to vote on prime minister Theresa May's Withdrawal Agreement on Tuesday.

Mr Blair is reported to have told Mr Macron that Parliament may eventually accept a customs union or grant the British public a second referendum on Brexit.

Eurosceptic Tory MP Peter Bone told The Telegraph: "It is totally unacceptable for a former prime minister to go around the heads of European countries and undermine the government's position.

"I'm not sure we could find another time in modern history when this has happened.

"Tony Blair has to realise he has had his time as prime minister and I'm surprised and disappointed he has done this.

"I doubt he would have liked it if his predecessors had done this to him."

Mrs May was working down to the wire to find a Brexit breakthrough before Tuesday's crucial vote by MPs on her Withdrawal Agreement, with speculation mounting of last-minute talks with Jean-Claude Juncker.

Ireland's foreign minister Simon Coveney said he understood that the Prime Minister will travel to Strasbourg on Monday evening in a final bid to secure changes that will allow MPs to back her Withdrawal Agreement the following day.

But sources in London said the Tanaiste was "getting ahead of himself" and there were no confirmed plans for Mrs May to fly to the continent.

Neither Downing Street nor the European Commission would confirm plans for a face-to-face meeting between Mrs May and Mr Juncker, who spoke by telephone on Sunday evening and again on Monday.

Time is running out for any new assurances or clarifications to the deal which was resoundingly rejected by a 230-vote majority by MPs in January.

The Government must table its motion for Tuesday’s debate by the end of the day, alongside the publication of any relevant documents – including Attorney General Geoffrey Cox’s legal advice on the deal. Downing Street insisted following Monday’s phone call that “talks continue”, despite admitting the process was “deadlocked” after negotiations over the weekend failed to produce agreement.

European Union chief negotiator Michel Barnier said the talks happening now were “between the Government in London and the Parliament in London”, rather than the UK and Brussels.

At Westminster, speculation has centred on the prospect of the Prime Minister watering down her commitment to hold a vote on her Brexit deal following the failure of talks to provide suitable concessions over the Northern Ireland backstop.

But Mrs May’s official spokesman confirmed it remains the plan to stage the second “meaningful vote” on the Brexit deal on Tuesday.

Countdown to leaving the EU

