

Jack Michael Outreach Ministries

A Ministry of the Watchman on the Walls, preparing God's People for the End Times

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Word from the Watchman – No Excuses

On the Day of Judgment, no one will have an excuse as to why they did not accept Jesus Christ as Savior:

*“But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people **WHO SUPPRESS THE TRUTH** by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature. So they have **NO EXCUSE** for not knowing God.”* (Romans 1:18-20 New Living Translation).

But, what about people who are **FAR AWAY FROM GOD**, who live in remote areas – like jungles – who have never heard about Jesus; where there are no churches, no Bibles, and no missionaries??? In reality, no one is far from God:

*“From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though **HE IS NOT FAR FROM EACH ONE OF US.**”* (Acts 17:26-27 NIV).

God is not just where Christians are; He is everywhere:

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.” (Psalm 139:7-10 NKJV).

Anyone who sincerely wants to know God can find him:

*“And you will seek Me, **AND FIND ME**, when you search for Me with all your heart.”* (Jeremiah 29:13 NKJV).

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So, if anyone who wants to find God can do so, then why bother trying to fulfill The Great Commission? Well, because Jesus commanded us to fulfill The Great Commission. Also, that person who is trying to find God may need our help.

Yet, whether or not we completely fulfill The Great Commission, on the Day of Judgment, no one will have an **EXCUSE** as to why they did not seek God, and accept Jesus Christ.

Having been in church for most of my life, I still remember traveling preachers coming to the church, and preaching fiery evangelistic messages. We were left feeling guilty if we did not fervently witness to every person with whom we came into contact, everyday! On the Day of Judgment, sinners would surely point a finger at us, and blame us for not sharing the Gospel with them.

I certainly believe in sharing the Good News of Jesus dying for our sins. However, you cannot share the Gospel with everyone. Many people refuse to listen; and to force the Gospel upon them drives them farther away from the Lord than they were before we witnessed to them.

Some years ago, after a fiery evangelistic sermon at the church, we went out to eat with the visiting evangelist. While we were seated at a table, he grabbed a waitress by the arm, who was trying to serve another table. He would not release her until he had loudly preached the Gospel at her. I will never forget the irritated look on her face. Somehow, I hope she eventually got over her animosity, and came to faith in Jesus.

So, what is the answer to this dilemma, to share, or not share the Gospel? Although no one will have an **EXCUSE** on Judgment Day, we still need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, to be where God wants us to be, doing what God wants us to do, so that we might be available to share the Gospel to those who know they are needy, and will listen:

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15 NIV).

Did you notice the last words of the above Scripture: **"...DO THIS WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT."**

Signs of the End Times

PERSECUTION

As we progress further into the End Times, there will be increased persecution. This persecution will be aimed at Israel (God's original Chosen People), and aimed at Christians (God's Redeemed People). This increased persecution will take place, because Satan is futilely trying to prevent the fulfillment of biblical prophecies, and prevent the Lord's return:

*"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time **MANY WILL TURN AWAY FROM THE FAITH** and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved."* (Matthew 24:9-13 NIV).

Interesting thing about persecution; there is no requirement to just stand there, and endure it. Jesus once said to his disciples:

"When they persecute you in this city, flee to another..." (from Matthew 10:23 NKJV).

Also, you can overcome persecution; you do not have to be overcome by it. Again, listen to Jesus' instruction to his disciples:

"And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for that city!" (Matthew 10:14-15 NKJV).

Pertaining to the above Scriptures, a pastor from Nigeria told me an interesting story. A well-know evangelist came to Nigeria to conduct evangelistic crusades. One crusade was scheduled for a northern city with a large Muslim population. All the arrangements were made, but when the evangelist arrived, the Muslims created such an uproar, that the city officials canceled the crusade.

When the evangelist departed from that city, he left a pair of his shoes at the airport.

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Here is another observation about persecution. John 16:2 says:

“They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God.” (NKJV).

This was fulfilled during the days of the early church. Acts 7:58-60 reveals the following:

“And they cast him out of the city and stoned him (referring to Stephen, the first Christian martyr). And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice: Lord, do not charge them with this sin. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” (NKJV).

Yet, we are also witnessing an End Times fulfillment of John 16:2. Fundamentalist Muslims believe they are serving God by killing Jews and Christians. In such cases, these radical followers of Islam actually believe they are earning their way into Paradise (or, Heaven) by killing innocent people.

Earlier in this series, we learned that deception is another sign of the End Times. I know of no greater deception than to believe one could gain Heaven by committing murder!

Signs of the End Times **MOCKERS OF GOD:**

*“...Scoffers (or, mockers) will come **IN THE LAST DAYS**, walking according to their own lusts, and saying: Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” (from 2 Peter 3:3-4 NKJV).*

It should be no surprise that scoffers (or, mockers) would be included among the persecutors. Jude 17-19 also reveals the following:

*“But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: How they told you that there would be mockers **IN THE LAST TIME** who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.” (NKJV).*

Series to continue in the next Teaching Letter