

Jack Michael Outreach Ministries

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

P. O. Box 117, Clemmons, NC 27012 USA

Teaching Letter, January 2020

jackmichael@att.net

www.jackmichaeloutreachministries.com

Word from the Watchman – Reaffirming our Faith in God's Grace

Recently, the Holy Spirit spoke a strong word to me concerning the Grace of God. I believe God's Grace is bigger than we imagine. I believe there will be people in Heaven, which we did not expect to be there!

We know Ephesians 2:8-9: *"For by **GRACE** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **GIFT OF GOD**, not of works, lest anyone should boast."* (NKJV). Yet, Christians sometimes fall into the trap of trying to **MAINTAIN** their Salvation through human efforts. Also, we sometimes wrongly judge others – whether or not they are saved – by their outward appearance, rather than what they believe in their hearts.

With those complex thoughts in mind, here is that fresh word from the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ for the beginning of this New Year...

When someone attempts to OBTAIN salvation, or MAINTAIN salvation through their own human efforts, it is an INSULT to my sacrifice, my sufferings, and my shed blood for the remission of sins.

Now, striving to live a godly life is obviously not wrong, and in fact, is commendable. Yet, we must keep things in a proper perspective. We are righteous only because we are in Jesus Christ:

*"God made him (Jesus) who had no sin, to be sin (or, bare sin) for us, so that **IN HIM** we might become the righteousness of God."* (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV).

Once, I was riding in my car, and listening to the radio. I came across an interview with legendary Rhythm and Blues singer, Fats Domino, whose hit recordings go back as far as my High School days. Much of the interview was accolades for his success in the music industry. But then, strangely, the interviewer asked him: *"Is God important in your life?"*

Fats Domino's response made my heart sing. He said: *"Without God, we are all lost; Jesus died for us all."* Shortly thereafter, he passed away.

So, here at the beginning of this New Year, I am reaffirming my faith in God's Grace through Jesus Christ, and in him alone!

Signs of the End Times

THE TIME OF GREAT TRIBULATION

The Lord Jesus told us there would be a time of Great Tribulation prior to his Second Coming:

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.” (Matthew 24:21-22 NKJV).

Jesus also told us he would return **IMMEDIATELY** after the time of Great Tribulation:

*“**IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION** of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”* (Matthew 24:29-31 NKJV).

The Great Tribulation is an extensive subject. I could teach on this subject for the next six months, but that is not the intent of this teaching series. Instead, I will explore some very important questions regarding this time of Great Tribulation.

Those who have known me for a while also know that I do not believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture; for the following reasons...

- 1) There is not a single Scripture in the Bible – not even one – which says there will be a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.
- 2) Pre-Tribulation Rapture teaching – in its entirety – is derived from reading into the Scriptures, what actually is not there.
- 3) Jesus taught a lot about the End Times, and his Second Coming, but he never mentioned a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

QUESTIONS - What if there is no Pre-Tribulation Rapture? What will happen to Christians living on the earth during those days of Great Tribulation? Specifically, I am referring to Christians who are totally committed to the hope of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

Continued, top of Page 3 ➤

Thousands upon thousands of Christians – especially in America – are “*Sold-Out*” to the Pre-Tribulation Rapture doctrine, and they are not open to considering any other possibility.

Periodically, I have the opportunity to share my differing beliefs with Christians who are counting on a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. Often, they are offended, and might even look upon me as if I was a Heretic. Figuratively speaking, they “*Stop-Up*” their ears, and withdraw from my presence as quickly as possible. Many Christians just simply refuse to listen to any other possibility!

Of course, the reason for such a rigid stance is understandable. They do not want to go through tribulation! And, let me be honest with you: I sincerely wish there was a Pre-Tribulation Rapture! However, as a Watchman on the Walls, with a calling to prepare God’s People for the End Times, I am obligated to teach what I believe is the truth.

What will happen to these Christians if a Pre-Tribulation Rapture does not occur? Well, obviously, they will be disappointed; but beyond disappointment, many will be devastated.

Earlier in this teaching series, I taught about the Great Apostasy as a Sign of the End Times. If you recall, apostasy is a time when Christian believers depart from the faith, and renounce Jesus Christ:

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.” (1 Timothy 4:1-2 NIV).

I believe closed-minded Christians, who are rigidly clinging to the hope of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, will be vulnerable to apostasy! After all, if what their pastor (or, their church) has taught them has proven to be untrue, maybe the other things they have taught are also untrue?

In those days, it will require a very strong decision to discard that favorite doctrine of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, and recommit their lives to Christ, and renew their trust in him. Hopefully, they will search out the truth in God’s Word, rather than depart from the faith in bitterness.

QUESTIONS - If there is no Pre-Tribulation Rapture, what will be required of Christians living on the earth during the Great Tribulation? If they do not commit apostasy, and do not deny Jesus Christ, will they all be killed by the Antichrist, and become martyrs?

I believe the Scriptures are clear: Some Christians – who refuse to renounce Jesus Christ – will have to become martyrs. From Revelation 20:4, we read the following words:

“...I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.” (NKJV).

. However, the Scriptures are also clear that not all Christians on the earth at that time will be killed by the Antichrist. Many will be alive and waiting for the return of Jesus.

How do I know this to be true? Earlier in this teaching, we looked at Matthew 24:29-31. Listen to a similar portion of Scripture from the book of Mark:

*“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then **HE WILL SEND HIS ANGELS, AND GATHER TOGETHER HIS ELECT** from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.”* (Mark 13:24-27 NKJV).

If the Antichrist kills all the Christians on the earth during the Great Tribulation, who would Jesus send out his angels to gather?

Well, I have given you a lot of things to ponder, and pray about. So, let me end this month’s teaching with an encouraging word:

*“Looking for the blessed hope and **GLORIOUS APPEARING** (a shining forth) of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”* (Titus 2:13-14 NKJV).

NOTE: I will conclude this series next month with an interesting teaching on the lack of synchronization in the universe just prior to the return of Jesus...