

“PREPARING FOR THE END OF THE AGE”

PART THREE

INTRO: ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE END OF THE AGE? In the last sermons of this series we have been discussing the concept of PREPARING FOR THE END OF THE AGE...THAT BEING THE CHURCH AGE ON EARTH. In doing so we have observed some things that are taking place in the MIDDLE-EAST, we have studied THE BATTLE OF GOG AND MAGOG as it is laid out for us in Ezekiel 38 and 39 and by doing so have come to the conclusion that **IT APPEARS THAT WE ARE RAPIDLY APPROACHING THE END OF THE AGE.** So the question remains: **ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE END OF THE AGE?** Today we are going to approach the subject of PREPARING FOR THE END OF THE AGE from a different perspective that is much more PERSONAL that relates to what CHRIST EXPECTS OF US during the remaining of the AGE, what we can EXPECT throughout the rest of the AGE and what believers will CONFRONTED WITH after the end of the AGE.

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I. THE EXHORTATION OF CHRIST – LUKE 19:11-27

WHAT HAS CHRIST EXHORTED BELIEVERS TO DO THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE AGE?

CHRIST GAVE THE ANSWER IN THE PARABLE OF THE POUNDS.

A. The Explanation of the Parable of the Pounds

-In the PARABLE OF THE POUNDS Christ spoke of a nobleman who was going to a far country to receive his kingdom. This was typical of that day when an “under-ruler” was going to receive his commission to rule. That is, he would go to the Capital of the Empire to be inaugurated in pomp and ceremony. During the time he was away he would give his servants the responsibility to carry out his business. Upon His return if they did well, he would reward them. If they did not do well, he would remove their reward.

B. The Interpretation of the Parable of the Pounds

-The disciples thought that Jesus was going to establish His kingdom right away, but He explained that was not the case. Through the parable He taught that he was going to go back to Heaven and to the throne of God to receive His Kingdom and then return to set it up on earth. While He was away (DURING THE CHURCH AGE) He would give His followers (ALL BELIEVERS) gifts and responsibilities to fulfill His work on earth. Upon His return He would reward those who had been faithful in doing His will.

C. The Application of the Parable of the Pounds

EVERY BELIEVER IS TO “OCCUPY” THAT IS, DO THE BUSINESS OF CHRIST UNTIL HE RETURNS!

1. To Fulfill the Great Commission – Mark 16:15
2. To Utilize our Spiritual Gifts – 1 Peter 4:10
3. To Perform as Salt and Light – Matthew 5:13-16

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE EXPECTATION TO CONSIDER – 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-14

WHAT CAN BELIEVERS EXPECT TO SE AS WE DRAW TOWARD THE END OF THE AGE?

THE APOSTLE PAUL GAVE THE ANSWER IN THE CONDITIONS OF THE “LAST DAYS” WHICH SPEAK OF THE ENTIRE CHURCH AGE.

A. The Peril of the Age – Vss. 1-9

1. The 19 Descriptors of the Last Days
Cp. 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Peter 3:3; 1 John 2:18
2. The 3 Highlights of the Last Days
 - a. There will be Counterfeit Christians – Vs. 5
 - b. There will be Concocted Education – Vs. 7
 - c. There will be Corrupt Impressions – Vss. 8,9

1) Jambres and Jambres were traditionally the magicians in Pharaoh’s Court who imitated the miracles of God when Moses sought the release of the Israelites.

2) The point is that in the Last Days many will simply imitate the power and work of the Lord...but will be totally false.

B. The Persecution of the Age – Vss. 10-13

-TRUE BELIEVERS MUST EXPECT PERSECUTION!

C. The Perseverance of the Age – Vss. 14,15

-TRUE BELIEVERS ARE EXPECTED TO PERSEVERE!

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE EXAMINATION TO CONFRONT – 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

WHAT CAN BELIEVERS ANTICIPATE AFTER THE AGE HAS ENDED?

THE APOSTLE PAUL GIVES THE ANSWER IN SPEAKING OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST!

NOTE: At the END OF THIS AGE the Rapture will occur, the unsaved world will face the Great Tribulation and the Christians will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ! **What will occur there?**

- A. The Judgment Seat of Christ is NOT the place to Judge Believer's Sin
-The true believers stand JUSTIFIED IN CHRIST!
- B. The Judgment Seat of Christ IS the place to Reward Believers.
 - 1. Jesus Christ will ASSESS the Believer for His works of earth.
 - 2. Jesus Christ will REWARD the Believer for His works on earth.
 - a. The Incorruptible Crown – 1 Corinthians 9:25
-For Controlled Christian Living
 - b. The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thessalonians 2:19
-For being a Soul Winner
 - c. The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Timothy 4:8
-For being faithful to the Ministry God has Given.
 - d. The Crown of Life – James 1:12
-For Overcoming the Trials of Life victoriously.
 - e. The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:4
-For Faithful Pastors –

NOTE: According to Revelation 3:11 it appears that individual churches will receive a reward for being faithful as seen in the teaching of the Church of Philadelphia.

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON/APPLICATION:

If TRUE BELIEVERS obey the exhortation of Christ to OCCUPY UNTIL HE COMES, that is, CONTINUE ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF THE LORD, they will be enabled to face the perils of the AGE and will be equipped to receive God-honoring rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

What about you? ARE YOU ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF THE LORD?

ARE YOU:

- 1) Involved in the Great Commission?
- 2) Using your Spiritual Gifts in the Local Church regularly?
- 3) Acting as Salt and Light in this corrupt society?

WILL YOU:

- 1) Lose Rewards – 2 John 8
- 2) Receive Rewards -2 Corinthians 5:10

ARE YOU:

- 1) Ready for the End of the Age?
- 2) Failing to Serve Christ Effectively?

EXAMINE YOUR LIFE ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD:

-TRUST CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO.

-AS A CHRISTIAN CONFESS AND REPENT OF NOT SERVING THE LORD PROPERLY IF YOU NEED TO.

BE READY FOR THE END OF THE AGE SO THAT YOU CAN GO INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD WITH A "WELL DONE THOUGH GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT" TO THE GLORY OF GOD!