

GO YE THEREFORE

Ill - Man & ham radio

This one man, who had heard this message, was willing to make a fool of himself, to warn people. Because one man had believed, he had made a believer of many others. How much more then in the case of the gospel which is true! Paul writes Timothy and charges him

“The day of judgement draws near, the world is coming to an end, there is not much time I give you this charge therefore ‘PREACH THE WORD X3’”

Today you constantly hear people talking about the last days. Jesus warned us about speculating on a date, but the bible gives us signs we are to watch for. There are many some theologians say 21, but here are 4

1. **INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE AND TRAVEL:-** Dan 12:4 the angel Gabriel told *Daniel* “*at the time of the end, many shall run to and from and knowledge will increase*”. The meaning of Daniel’s words could not possibly have been understood until the last 150 years. Until 1800 the top speed was 20 mph on horseback. The train came along and it jumped to 100 mph. In 1952 the jet passenger whisked us through the air at over 300 mph. Since then its speed has doubled but in 1961, manned space flight was clocked at 16,000 mph.

By 1900 there were only 35,000 books in the world published per year. Today over 400,000 books are published each year. John Neisbitt in his best seller Megatrends, suggests 10 major trends now occurring in the world. No transformation is more explosive than that of knowledge. In most developed nations, society has made a major shift from being an agricultural society, to an industrial society today. Communication satellites have transformed earth into a global village. In the same societies more than 60% of its people work in the information occupation, while only 13% work in manufacturing and a mere 3% in agriculture.

2. **THE MORAL STATE OF THE WORLD:-** Mt. 24:37 - 39 “*As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the son of man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the son of man.*”

Entertainment, that borders on carousing and licentiousness, is a multibillion dollar business world-wide. Today an increasing % of our consumer products are for the sole purpose of stimulating the mind, or body, or sight, or taste, or smell. Hedonism is quickly becoming a global philosophy and the god of this age. Last weeks Time magazine estimates there are prostitutes world-wide - a colossal number and the authorities are helpless in stopping this trade in human flesh. Crime and corruption are on the increase world-wide vs. *12* goes on to say “*Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold*” we no longer notice the poor, we have grown deaf to the pleas of the street children. The church, parachurch and NGO are struggling with donor-fatigue. we read of the conflicts in Bosnia/Herzegovina and instead of being grieved and outraged by the sin of genocide, we dismiss it by saying “Oh there’s nothing new in this news article”.

3. **WARS AND RUMOURS OF WAR:-** Mt. 24:6 Like George Bush, we all thought the end of the cold war would usher in a new world order characterised by Peace with the US, the UN or the World Bank being the new “Globocops”. How wrong we were - there are now more conflicts spots than there was during the cold war - Somalia, Angola, Sudan, Liberia, Ireland, Georgia, Bosnia, Herzegovina.

The main herald’s of these end time signs have become the news channels of the world. Every major newspaper in the world centres on

- Transferring knowledge
- Corruption and immorality

- Wars and conflicts.

These are the hot items, but there is a 4th sign we Christians recognise.

4. **THE RISE OF FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS:-** *Many will come in my name claiming to be the Christ and will deceive many, - they will perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect...*” cults will grow, witchcraft will flourish, false teachers will infiltrate the church, the bible will be under server attack. You will hear of more and more incidents like that of Koresh as people claim to be Christ. All an indication that the end is near.

Ill - little girl and clock

The world stand son the threshold of judgement. It has never been this late before - **PREACH THE GOSPEL, PREACH THE GOSPEL, PREACH THE GOSPEL.**

But how do we preach? And by preach I mean not just the pulpit, but taking hold of every opportunity I can to share the gospel. 4 clues that Paul gave Timothy in his letters are

- A. ***Preach with authority and power II Tim 3:16*** - do not be ashamed, embarrassed or apologetic about the Word of God ! Ps 19: 7 says *“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul”* Preach it with conviction and assurance, knowing that *Faith cometh by hearing , and haring by the Word of God”* Preach it with the certainty that *it is the power of God unto salvation.*

One reason why people listened to Jesus was that He as one having authority, let its message be your message. Study it, meditate upon it, memorise it, trust its promises and preach it - the Word of God has its own power.

And yet preach not just with authority but with power - the power of the spirit, for it is the spirit that brings conviction. Preaching in the power of the spirit. We communicate the gospel of our lives as well as our lips. We live before a watching world - ready to see if we live what we preach.

If your lips and your life lack authority to power, perhaps you have been so busy you have neglected your study of God’s word, or prayer. Perhaps there is sin in your life that is robbing you of effectiveness. Whatever it is confess it, repent of it and walk on the power of the Spirit.

- B. ***Preach it with relevance , but with simplicity 2:15 do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of truth.. in II Cor 10:5 Paul says “we demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and takes captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”***

The gospel is profound, so the human intellect can never fully probe its depths.

The struggle of our generation over the gospel is not one of validity people know it is valid the struggle is over relevance! Study the gospel, probe its depths, understand its wisdom and communicate that. Too often Christians. Believe but do not really understand what they believe.

Ill - Man asked “Do you believe”

While our intention is not to impress intellectually; we discredit and shame ourselves when we peddle the gospel as blind belief, when it is a truth based on actual historical, scientific and God given truths. But we seek not just to be relevant, but also be simple enough that people understand . One of the secrets of Jesus preaching was as *Mk. 12:37 says “The common people heard him gladly”* Why ? Because they understood him , he spoke their language.

- When we speak to children, we must speak at their level, that they may respond in faith.
- When we speak to the common people . . .
- When we speak to intellectuals . . .

- C. **We must preach with love and compassion.** Our motive is always “. . .love which comes from a pure heart . . .” Even when your message includes the fact of judgements and hell, your hearers should realise that both God and you, his messenger, speak from a broken heart. Do they sense your love and compassion? Is God able to channel His love for them through you? Whenever we speak to people who do not have Christ in their hearts, there are certain things that are true of them.

First - there is a sense of emptiness in their lives. They may surround themselves with wealth, power and prestige, but these things are finally meaningless in the face of death. Some refuse to acknowledge their emptiness, others only acknowledge it in old age, but it is there.

Second - we can assume there is loneliness in our hearers. In every person there is a yearning for a relationship with someone who will love him just as he is. Poets through their writings have sought to capture this type of love throughout the history of mankind, musicians have sang of it over and over again, and yet it illudes man. Most of all it is a loneliness for God, who created us to have fellowship with him.

Third - We are speaking to people with a sense of guilt. Although I is not often recognised and people go to great length to cover it up, guilt is perhaps the most universal of all human experiences and the most devastating. Even childhood guilt can hound you to the grave and there is no resolution of guilt until one finds true forgiveness in Christ.

Forth - We are speaking to people who have a fear of death.

Death is the robber of hope and meaning, and the people we speak to are helpless in the face of death. For these 4 reason we become a channel of God's compassion, hope and love. Therefore preach the gospel with love and compassion.

- D. **Preach it with urgency and for decision:-** Which brings us back to our text, the end is near, just this week you may have spoken with someone who may never hear the gospel again. Every day hundreds of lives are being locked into eternity without Christ. Furthermore “the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine...” The great barrier to the gospel to millions of people has come down. The iron curtain has been broken, Eastern Europe and the USSR have been opened up to hear the gospel. Rejoice and take hold of that opportunity quickly but even as we do so recognise that the “window of opportunity” is fast closing in the Islamic countries, and a new iron curtain not of national borders but of hardness of heart is being raised up in Europe and America. People no longer want the truth - its new age and self discovery that are the in-things.

But you man and woman of God - **PREACH THE GOSPEL.** Be like Paul who said “*For I determined to know nothing among you but Christ and him crucified.*”

We are sorry to interrupt this transmission but we have just received word from the pentagon that America I under attack. Arony satellites have for sometimes now been observing increasing activity at Soviet Nuclear sites targeted at the US and as of 10 minutes ago picked up signals showing that the USSR had fired 20 ICBM towards the Major cities in America. Our counterattack is under way but within 1 hour the USSR missiles will hit America. There is nothing we can do to stop these missiles, we repeat, there is nothing we...