

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

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2 Tim. 2:24 - *No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the things of this life.*



THE FINAL GENERATION?

Are we the final generation? We know that we are living at the End of the Age. We know that we are likely at the end of the End of the Age. But are we really the final generation? Jesus said that no one knows the precise day or the precise hour of His coming, but He also said that we need to look at the things that are occurring around us and, by them, we can know that we are at that time in history.

The wise Christian will live and make decisions as if he *were* part of the final generation. We do not want to be like the five foolish virgins. Tomorrow really is too late.

So what does all this mean in our every day Christian living? It means that nothing else really matters except God. Everything else that we can see, smell or touch will pass away – sooner than we think. Only our relationship with the Lord will last.

Obviously, we still must work (in most circumstances); we still must raise our families, etc, etc. But we must learn to do so under the Lord's direct guidance. Prov. 3:5 states: *Trust in the Lord*

with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. We quote that Scripture, and even believe it, but few of us act it out in our everyday lives. It is time to recognize that God cares more for our jobs and our families than we do. And He'll do a far better job operating through us than we will, doing it our way and asking Him to bless it.

Everything else must take a back seat. **We are living at a time in history unlike any time that has occurred before.** The enemy has pulled out all the stops. He is drawing every evil demon imp from beneath the earth's surface and putting them to work. His purpose is to destroy us, spiritually, and if he cannot do that, his purpose is to kill us and get us out of his way.

Our only protection is in Jesus. We must bury ourselves in the Lord. There is no room in this final generation for "business as usual". There is no room for casual or comfortable Christianity.

There are Scriptures that speak of our relationship with Jesus that we must cultivate at this time in history. Gal. 2:20 – *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer*

live, but Christ lives in me. What a powerful word! We must know, without question, that we have been crucified with Jesus. When He died, we died. Our self was crucified with Him. That is why we must make the effort, daily, to die to self. Keep that self crucified. It doesn't need to be tamed; it needs to be killed. The result is that it is no longer we who live but rather it is Jesus who lives in and through us. This must become an experiential truth in our everyday Christian lives, especially so now.

Col. 3:3 – *For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.* Another magnificent truth of the gospel! Because you did die with Jesus, your life is now hidden with Him. You see, Jesus is one with the Father, so His life is hidden in God, the Father. But we have also become one with Jesus, so our life is hidden in Him. It is no longer we who live but Christ who lives in us. What does this mean? It means that both we and Christ are hidden, together, in God the Father.

We can get through this life unscathed. That doesn't mean we won't be persecuted or martyred. It means, spiritually, we will be protected.

Life, at this time in history, is not scary if we understand and experience these truths. Life is actually exciting. To think that God, in His wisdom and grace, chose each of us to live at this unbelievable time is almost too much to grasp. But God knows exactly what He is doing. And each of us has available to him the ability, by God's grace and power, to enter into the kind of relationship with Jesus of which we just spoke.

That is our protection; and it is enough.

A HOLY, WARRIOR REMNANT

God has raised up and is still raising up a holy, warrior remnant at this time. This remnant will be the means through which God will exact His will upon the earth. What is His will? To take back that which the enemy has temporarily stolen; to redeem the finances, all of which belong to the Lord, and place them in the hands of Israel and the Church to be used for the kingdom of God. His will is to set at liberty those who are chained up by the devil: alcoholism, drugs, pornography, etc. His will is to place the entire earth, all of which belongs to the Lord (Psm 24:1), in the hands of His people. And His will is to bring into alignment the earth and all that are on the earth in

preparation for the millennium reign.

It is imperative for us to understand that in order for God to do all of these things, **He must have a pliable, viable people through whom He can work.** We are that people. We are the remnant. But, we can only become part of that remnant by doing so on God's terms.

Today, there are many who are undergoing trying times, spiritually, financially, emotionally, and physically. We are being tried in order to burn off the dross and allow the gold to shine through. God is not only preparing us to be used here during this exciting End of the Age, but He is also preparing us to rule and reign with Him through the millennium age.

Please notice that this remnant is both holy and a warrior remnant. First, we must be holy. 1 Pet 1:16 – *Be holy, because I am holy.* To be holy is to be godly. Only God is purely holy. But we are told in Rom. 8:29 that God's purpose for us is to conform us to the likeness of Jesus. Jesus, too, was holy. So, we are to be holy. We cannot do that in our own strength. Only God can do God's work. And He will conform us to Jesus' likeness if we allow Him to. But, that means that we are going to have to yield like we have never yielded before. God wants it all, friend. **There is nothing that you have, nothing that you are, that**

God does not want. Allow Him to do with you that which pleases Him. The end result is that He will make you like Jesus. Only then can you be used to bring Heaven to earth. God will do the work. He only wants to use our earthsuits. He wants to use these old goats on which we ride.

But this remnant is also a warrior remnant. This is no place for the 1970 peaceniks. We are a warrior remnant and we will go to war. That war will take place in our prayer closets; it will take place in great intercessory prayer groups that are strong now and will continue to spring up mightily throughout the world. God may send some of us onto the front lines. Look at how many of our dear brothers and sisters, right now, are serving Him in places where persecution is rampant. **Many become martyrs for the Lord. Is there a higher calling than that? I don't think so.**

So we must learn how to pray, God's way. We must learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit when we pray. We must learn to pray with fervency, power and passion. There is much at stake.

DISENTANGLEMENT

The opening Scripture stated: *No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the things of this life.* Can it be said any more

plainly? It is time for us to put aside everything that reeks of the world. The enemy is already devious but he will be even more so as time goes on. The devil isn't going to hold up a road sign letting us know that he is about to attack. We're not talking about physical warfare here. We're speaking of spiritual warfare. The terrorist might very well tell us in advance that he is going to attack. That is physical warfare. There will be much of that in our near future as well. You can be sure of it. That, too, is the devil's work. **But he wants to destroy us spiritually.** And if we have any spiritual strength at all, we will see him coming if he comes right down the middle of the highway. So ... he won't do it that way! He is devious and he will be even more so in days to come. We must, therefore, be spiritually alert.

How do we stay alert enough? We can only do so under the power and strength of the Holy Spirit of God. We must yield all to the Lord. We must throw ourselves on His mercy and allow Him to conform us to Jesus' likeness. **Only as we become one with the Lord will we have the spiritual protection that we need.**

God is faithful. We can trust Him to do that which He already wants to do with us. But it is a two-way street. We can't continue to do the things that we have been

doing (those things that clearly are not pleasing to the Lord) and expect God to do this work in us. If you don't want to be eaten by the alligators, you have to stay out of the swamp. We must divorce ourselves from the things of this world and we must do it now! Tomorrow may be too late. It is not coincidental that the parable of the ten virgins is found in Matt. chapter 25, in the same dissertation that Jesus made regarding the End of the Age. The two are intentionally tied together. The five foolish virgins waited too long. They knew what they had to do and they wanted to do it. But they didn't want to do it when they should have done it. They convinced themselves that there was still enough time to linger about in their complacency. They were wrong!

No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the things of this life. If you are part of the holy, warrior remnant, you are engaged in warfare. The time to get disentangled from the world is now!

THE BENEFITS OF THE REMNANT

Does all of this sound too harsh? Is this what you really want to do with the rest of your life? Yes!! Yes!! This is exactly what you want to do with the rest of your life. We must remember that the very

short time we spend on this earth (75 years average) is like one grain of sand among all the seashores in the world; yet, what we do with this one grain of sand will determine where, how, and with whom we spend eternity.

We want to spend eternity with Jesus, and we want to be used mightily of Him while we are still here on the earth. Yes, it might be a lot easier if we can just share the gospel, occasionally, in the grocery checkout line, or preach to a congregation of people who we've known for years and aren't a threat to us, but this is no longer the 50s, 60s, or 70s, friends. We are living at the end of the End of the Age. And we want to be part of this powerful move of God that is happening now and will continue to take place over the next few years.

But there is far more to living in the perfect will of God than just being a warrior. Ps. 91:1 states: *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

The psalm goes on to speak of the many difficult things that will occur at this time in history: *Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.*

This psalm is speaking of the many difficult things that

will occur during these next months and years ahead of us. There is already great fear gripping many people in our nation because of our failed economy. And it is not just the U.S.A. It is happening throughout the world. We are in a society where greed and corruption are so commonplace that our government actually rewards those who have gone broke because of their greed and corruption. And we're so dumbed down that we don't even blink an eye at such inconceivable decision-making.

But God is saying clearly to us that these are not things that we need to fear if we are conformed to the likeness of Jesus. And we do not need to fear the terrible plagues and pestilences, either. We are to dwell in the shelter of the Most High. To dwell is to live. When you move to a new home, you take everything with you that is truly you – pots and pans, knick knacks, etc. That is what is meant by this verse of Scripture. We must move all that we are into the shelter of the Most High. We must become one with the Lord. Only then will we be protected from all of these things that are going to come upon the earth.

Does that mean we will not be persecuted? No! Jesus promised us persecution. Some of us will be martyred. Some of us will spend time in prison. But the vials of God's wrath will not affect us.

And all that God is taking us through is to make us more like Jesus. He is not only preparing us to be used during this powerful time but He is also preparing us to rule and reign with Jesus during the millennium years. Along with all of that, we are going to serve God at the pinnacle of servitude during this period of time. We can't even fathom what God is going to do; it is too far above us. But we can know that it is going to be unbelievable. There will be an inner joy and an unsurpassing peace unlike anything we have every experienced before. And God, in His graciousness, chose us to be here and participate in this magnificent event. How awesome is that?

SEMINAR

Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, at 7:15PM, Peter Hess will be teaching a Radical Discipleship seminar—each Tuesday for several weeks—at Cornerstone Fellowship (66 Waverly Dr. – behind the Fredericktowne Mall, next to Ollie's Outlet). All are welcome!

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