

Truth Matters: Is the End Near?

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – May 15, 2011

Matt 24:35-44

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 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; 39 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. 40 two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. 42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

God's Word says this about the end...

1. **ONLY THE FATHER KNOWS WHEN!**

Matt 24:36

No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

1 Thess 5:1-2

1 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

God's Word says this about the end...

2. **THINGS WILL GET WORSE!**

2 Tim 3:1-5

1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

Matt 24:3-8

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

God's Word says this about the end...

3. **STAY GROUNDED AND BUSY!**

Acts 1:7-8

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Matt 28:19-20

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

God's Word says this about the end...

4. **KEEP WATCH AND BE READY!**

Matt 24:42, 44

42 "keep watch" 44 "be ready"

How can we be ready?

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SINFULNESS BEFORE A HOLY GOD.

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

BELIEVE THAT JESUS HAS SAVED YOU FROM YOUR SIN.

Acts 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."

CONFESS JESUS AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR.

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."