

MAY 2020: Endure to the End

Dear Partner,

We live in the most exciting time in history!

The days in which we live are challenging and stressful for some, but for those who know Jesus, like you, Partner—who understand God’s Word, and follow the Holy Ghost—these are tremendous days!

God is moving in signs, wonders, and miracles. We are experiencing abundant harvests of souls, healing, and finances. **Yet, as the light of Jesus shines more brightly, the prince of the rulers of the darkness of this world (*Ephesians 6:12*) knows that his time is almost up.**

Partner, don’t be surprised by what is happening in the world today. And do not be afraid! Remember that Jesus said He would never leave us or forsake us. (*Hebrews 13:5*) Regardless of what is ahead, you are not alone! Second, remember that nothing that is happening is a surprise to the Lord, and everything is working out according to God’s plan. Jesus told us what would happen at the end of days.

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of

wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

(Matthew 24:1-14)

The disciples presented one of mankind's most fundamental questions: *what will happen at the end of this world as we know it.* **The disciples were regular people like you and me. They wanted to know about the future, and particularly as it related to the end of the age.**

Now, Partner, if you've been wondering if we're in the last days, the answer is yes.

The last days started over 2,000 years ago on the Day of Pentecost. After the 120 in the upper room were filled with the Holy Ghost and stumbled out onto the streets of Jerusalem speaking in tongues, Peter, in his tremendous first sermon noted, *But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last day, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. (Acts 2:16-17)*

When Jesus told His followers about the last days, He referred to an age that they were completely unfamiliar with—the church age. Paul called it the *mystery concerning Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:32)*

Some of what Jesus revealed came to pass only a few decades after His ascension into heaven. In 68 AD, the Roman Emperor Nero sent General Vespasian to restore order to a rebellious Jerusalem. When Nero died later that year, Vespasian was declared to be Emperor, and he returned to Rome. He left his son, Titus, in Jerusalem to lead the final assault on Jerusalem. By 70 AD, the Roman army, under Titus' leadership, demolished the city's walls and began the complete destruction of the temple. Just as Jesus prophesied, *[not] one stone [was left] upon another, that [was] not thrown down. (Matthew 24:2)*

However, some of Jesus' prophecy had to do with the *end of the last days*, the era in which we live.

Partner, to rightly divide the Word of God, particularly when it comes to understanding the end of the last days, we must acknowledge that the Bible is addressed to three groups—and only three groups—of people. God doesn't see nationalities, skin color, or social status.

The only three groups that God recognizes are first, the Jews, second, the church, and third, the Gentiles (those who haven't received God).

The Jewish people are part of God's eternal plan. Judaism doesn't need Christianity to explain itself, but Christianity depends on Judaism. God used the Jewish people to bring us the Messiah. Every major character in the Bible was Jewish including Daniel, Moses, Peter, James, and John. Jesus was a Jew! God has not discarded the Jewish people, nor has He replaced them with the church. Look at what Paul said about the importance of the nation of Israel in the last days.

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles

be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. (Romans 11:25-27)

I have several Jewish friends, many of whom are Rabbis. They believe in the Messiah, as do I. However, we have a running joke amongst ourselves. They say, “*When the Messiah shows up, we are going to ask Him a question—is this your first visit or your second?*” Of course, you and I know that He will answer, “*Second.*”

As we near the return of the Lord, Satan is attempting to isolate and persecute the two groups that know God. There is growing anti-Semitic and anti-Christian sentiment throughout the world.

Believers in 80 nations (or $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world) suffer discrimination, harassment, imprisonment, beatings, torture, rape, and death because of their faith in Christ. Jesus said in *Matthew 24:9* that *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

The phrase *deliver up* means to be under arrest. In other words, at the end of the last days, Christians will be arrested merely for being Christian, and that is precisely what is happening in most of the world today.

Partner, thank God if you live in a nation where you can freely worship Him because more than 215 million Christians worldwide live under severe persecution.

Did you know that breaking blasphemy laws in Islamic nations is punishable by death? Anyone who believes that Jesus is Lord, suggests that the Koran is not God’s Word, or who does *anything* that they think offends the prophet Mohammed is guilty according to their jurisprudence.

One prominent example is Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian woman, who suffered for eight years in prison because her female co-workers said she blasphemed the prophet, Mohammed. How did she *blaspheme*? Asia, as a Christian, is considered by Muslims to be unclean, but she shared their water cup while working in the hot sun as a fruit picker. Her crime was drinking from a cup!

Other nations, like North Korea, China, and parts of Eastern Europe, take the position that being a Christian means you are an enemy of the state. The state is supposed to be your god if you live in those countries. The punishment for being a Christian is death or life in a prison camp for your entire family.

Jesus said about the end of the last days, *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (Matthew 24:13)*

Saved is *sozo* in Greek. It means *healed, delivered, set free, made whole, made sound*. Decide today that you will be one who endures to the end!

Yes, Partner, we are in the end of the last days! Another sign is that the Gospel is being preached everywhere—precisely as Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:14!

Think about it. When Jesus uttered those words, there was no internet, no television, no radio or telephone. The printing press hadn't even been invented yet! But today, in our ministry alone, we have had over 1 million people contact our website over the past two years. 40% of those who contact us are from Islamic nations.

Partner, regardless of how dark the darkness gets, or how rapidly evil seems to be growing, do not lose hope! Satan cannot stomp out the church, and he cannot stop you either!

The Word of God is being spread all over the world! Even in China, where suppression is rampant, the church is growing. When people from North Korea escape, they too report that even under harrowing persecution, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is vibrant and alive.

God is calling people who are willing to stand up in the burning fiery furnace. He is looking for believers who will not back down and who will not be ashamed to say, *Jesus is my Lord. I am saved, healed and delivered by Him, and I refuse to back down.*

God is looking for people who will believe Him to supply all of their needs, and even, if necessary, protect them from the fiery furnace!

Don't let the pressure squeeze you into turning away from God and His Word.

Jesus used the word *afflicted* in *Matthew 24:9* to describe today's massive persecution of Christians. *Afflicted* is *thlipsis* in Greek. It means *pressure*. Jesus used the same word in the parable of the sower in Mark chapter four.

And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. (Mark 4:16-17)

Offended is *skandalizo* in Greek. It means *to trip up* or *to be trapped*.

Partner, don't allow the pressures of these last days trip you up! Remain steadfast to the end. Stand on God's Word! Stand with your brothers and sisters who are suffering under persecution. And having done all, stand! (*Ephesians 6:13*) God is faithful. He moves suddenly on our behalf when we continue to stand on His Word! It's time for the greatest harvest of souls the world has ever seen!

