



# **THE FUTURE TODAY!**

**Prophecy Meetings**

**The world is getting worse!**

**Matthew 24:1-14**

**Sermon given on April 14, 2019**



**Sunday Evening Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The world is getting worse!

## *Matthew 24:1-14*

### Opening Comments

- Welcome to the **FUTURE TODAY** prophecy meeting
- We are having these meetings because we believe the Bible tells us in advance what is going to happen
- The Bible contains prophecies of the future
- And we believe that we are to understand them as well as we can
- For the purposes of being prepared ourselves and so that we can warn others to get prepared
- We often refer to these prophecies as signs **Matthew 16:3**

**You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times.**

- A sign is defined as: a perceptible indication of something not immediately apparent; as a visible clue that something has happened or will happen.
- We hold this meeting monthly because we believe the signs of the soon coming of Jesus Christ are everywhere
- There are many signs – many of them focused on Israel
- This evening we are going to look at the sign of lawlessness
- This concerns the attitudes and behaviors of people in the end-times
- With all the advances in medicine and technology and science, we would think the world is getting better – sadly, it is not
- Let's pray and then look at our topic: **The world is getting worse!**
- Turn to **Matthew 24**
- This account takes place just two days before Jesus is betrayed
- Just a few days earlier Jesus rode into Jerusalem in what we call the Triumphal Entry
- **Matthew 24:1-12**
- Lawlessness = the state of being or behaving in open defiance to the law.
- This is behaving as if the law doesn't exist or doesn't apply to you
- A modern example of lawlessness are sanctuary cities

- Mayors of cities or governors of states acting in open defiance of the President of the United States
- Jesus is referring to a law higher than the laws of government
- He is referring to the laws of God
- Let's use an example from our culture – abortion
- For most of our country – the question is not whether or not abortion is wrong, but at what point in the pregnancy does abortion become wrong
- The Christian worldview, based on the Word of God, is that all life is precious, and that life begins at the moment of conception
- Therefore, all abortion is wrong
- There may be ethical arguments for some exceptions to that statement, but those exceptions are exceedingly rare
- Look at verse 12 again – this is the problem
- **Matthew 24:12**
- ‘the love of many’ – who does the ‘many’ refer to? – Christians!
- Even in the church, there is debate on the topic of abortion
- There should be no debate – with possible very rare exceptions, all abortion should be illegal – no debate
- But for the last 50 years, the love of Christians for the Word of God and His perfect truth has been cooling
- And all the attitudes in our culture regarding the sexual revolution, gender identity, abortion, race relations, gender equity have crept into the church
- It is not that those topics are not important, they are – and the Word of addresses every one of them
- But ‘the love of many’ has grown cold
- Christians and churches seem to be more concerned with public opinion than they are with truth
- I believe this is a huge sign of the times – we have reached a tipping point in our nation
- I have a hard time imagining it getting better
- In Luke 17 we were taught that before Jesus comes back, the world is going to be oblivious to the coming of judgment
- The world will be like the days of Noah and Lot

- In Noah's day **Genesis 6:5**

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- Judged the world with a flood – in Lot's day **2 Peter 2:6-8**  
...and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, *who* was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)...

- Well, that is kind of depressing, right?
- The world is bad, and it is going to get worse – what do we do?

- **Matthew 24:13-14**

- Jesus would tell us to 'endure to the end' – endure in what? **John 13:34-35**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

- We are called to love God, His Word, and each other
- We need to be prepared to share the gospel message of God's love with a world that increasingly opposes it
- And then Paul tells us that is not going to be easy **2 Timothy 3:1-5**  
**But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**
- The Bible teaches us that lawlessness will increase until the end
- All this is in preparation of the Lawless One who will come in the future
- God is going to judge this world for its sin and rebellion against Him
- We are living in exciting times, because we could be the generation that sees the return of Christ
- But at the same time, they will be increasingly difficult times
- As lawlessness increases, the temptation to compromise with the culture becomes more intense
- God is calling us to endure to the end – to stand on the truth in the face of increasing opposition
- Jesus' word to us tonight – Endure in love until I come for you