

- ★ We are living in a time of history that **MANY** have been **deceived** in believing a false, watered-down gospel. (Matthew 7:21-29; 24:1-24; Gal 1:6-9)
- Those who **know** that they live in a war zone are serious about their lives and the lives of their loved ones. (Consider Joel 1:1-3)
- Those in war zones look to watchmen for warnings and heed those warnings.
- ★ We live in a time of history where God has commanded “all men everywhere to **repent**” (Acts 17:30) – **TO REPENT** means to return to God’s ways as **written** in His Word.
- ★ YET, we are living in times where men are **demanding** that EVIL be called GOOD and GOOD be called EVIL! (Isaiah 5:20) We are **provoking** God to anger!!
- ☆ WAR is not a time to be “playing soldier” but it is a time to “being a soldier”!

Reactions to Watchmen’s Warnings in the Past (Ezekiel 33:30-33)

- They heard but did not do. (v. 31)
- They talked about the watchman and **not the message**. (v. 30)
- They came to be entertained but not warned. (v. 32)
- They didn’t want to hear about God’s hatred of *their* sins. (Isaiah 30:8-11)
- They did not believe that God would do what He said He would do. (Jeremiah 5:12-13)
- They wanted their ears tickled. (Jeremiah 5:30-31)
- They wanted their sins approved of. (Micah 2:11)
- They wanted to hear **new** things. (Acts 17:21)
- They wanted to kill (words and stones) those that spoke against them. (Luke 20:19)
- They believed that God would not do anything good or evil. (Zephaniah 1:12)
- **They were “settled in complacency”!** (Zephaniah 1:12)
- They wanted the watchman to stop blowing the trumpet. (Isaiah 30:8-11)

God Gave Us the Feast of Trumpets

- 1 God gave us His feast to remind us that Christ is coming again.
- 2 God gave us His feast to remind us of His plans to gather His elect and His tares and chaff at the end of the harvest!
- 3 God gave us His feast to remind us to listen to God’s messengers as they “blow the trumpet” and to repent and do things God’s Way!
- 4 God gave us His feast to remind us that He is coming only for a REMNANT!
 - Those who are eagerly watching for His return. (Romans 8:23; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:11-14)
 - Those who laboring in love. (1 Corinthians 15:58; Luke 12:37-43)
 - Those who are listening to His “trumpeters” and take His warnings seriously. (Ezekiel 33:1-11)
 - Those who are purifying themselves just as He is pure. (1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1)

Are You Listening?



13 September 2020

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Ezekiel 33:1-11, 30-33
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Feasts of the LORD (Leviticus 23; Deuteronomy 16:16)

- See Handout: Feasts of the LORD 2020
- God established SEVEN feasts to share His joy with HIS ELECT.
- God HONORED the first four of His feasts.
- In sending His Holy Spirit on the feast of Pentecost, God established His Church AGE – the Harvest season on His calendar!
- At the end of the Church AGE – the Harvest – there will be two gatherings:
 - ① The gathering of the wheat into the “barn”. (Matthew 13:24-43)
 - ② The gathering of the chaff and tares to be burned in fire. Consider 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10.
- The end of the harvest season was marked by the seventh New Moon and the blowing of trumpets (shofars). This day is the feast of Trumpets on God’s calendar.
- The feast of Trumpets is quickly followed by the Day of Atonement and, finally, the feast of Tabernacles.
- These are FEASTS of the LORD! Do we know what this means?

Watching the Moon

- For the past month we have been tracking the moon. We started with the **sixth** new moon and have been anticipating the **seventh** new moon that marks the Feast of Trumpets, a feast of the LORD.
- (Colossians 2:16-17) Tells us that the New Moon, as well as the feasts and sabbaths, “are shadows of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”
 - (Luke 12:37) We used the watching of the moon throughout the past 24 days to remind us that we are **commanded to be diligent watchers** for the second coming of Christ. (Matt 24:42; 25:13)
 - ★ The consequences of NOT WATCHING (disobedience; sin) is SEVERE! (Luke 12:45-48)
 - ★ True believers watch, look for, groan for, and eagerly await the coming of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (Luke 12:37; Romans 8:23; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:11-14)
- **EVERYONE** who hopes in these promises **purifies themselves** just as He is pure. (1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Tim 6:14; 2 Peter 3:14)

Are You Wheat or Tares? (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

- The Sower: “the Son of Man” (John 17:2; 5:21)
- The field: “the world”
- The Good Seed: “sons of the kingdom” - Christ's kingdom..
- The Tares: “sons of the wicked one” – the Devil.
 - Either you are child of the God or a child of the Devil. (1 John 3:10; John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5, 7; 8:44)
- The Harvest: “the end of the age” at the end of the Church age but prior to Judgment day. (Acts 17:30-31) **ARE YOU READY TO STAND BEFORE GOD - YOUR JUDGE?** (Amos 4:12)
- **BEWARE of the Counterfeit**
- Satan, the Devil, the AntiChrist sows “counterfeit” seed.
 - The Devil uses “his” ministers to do the sowing. (2 Cor 11:13-15; Acts 20:29-30)
 - Christ and NT writers warn us over and over to BEWARE of false teachers, false doctrine, deception, and false believers. (Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24; 7:15, 21-23; 1 John 4:1; 2:18; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 Peter 2:1; Colossians 2:4-8)
- Satan has his “counterfeit” preachers. (Ephesians 4:14; 2 Peter 2:1-2)
- Satan has his “counterfeit” Christians. (2 Cor 11:26; Gal. 2:4; Matt 7:21-23; Titus 1:16)
- Satan has his “counterfeit” Gospel. (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Cor 11:4)
- Satan has his “counterfeit” righteousness. (Romans 10:1-3)
- Satan has his “counterfeit” church. (Revelation 2:9)
- Satan, himself, will be **the** “counterfeit” Christ. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)
- ★ **Warnings for Those Who Have Ears to Hear**
- Christ says that at the end of the age the “counterfeit” Christians will be “bundled up” and burned in the fire. (Hebrews 4:13; **Matthew 15:13**)
- Christ commands the end of these “counterfeit” Christians as “cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” (v. 42)
- WARNING to the Church:

- ① When did Satan sow bad seed? When the servants were asleep!
 - We are called to be SOBER, ALERT, WATCHFUL, AWAKE, VIGILANT; SERIOUS; (1 Thess. 5:6-8; 1 Peter 5:8; 4:7; Romans 13:11-13; Jude 4)
- ② We KNOW that TARES are among the TRUE WHEAT. Therefore, **“make every effort (be more diligent; work hard to prove) to make YOUR calling and election SURE.”** (2 Peter 1:10)
- ③ We are to EARNESTLY CONTEND for **the** faith that has been entrusted to **us!** (Jude 3; Romans 16:17-18)
- ④ We are NOT to be “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine” but speak **the TRUTH** (which is the Word of God). (Eph 4:14-15; Heb. 5:12-14)
- ⑤ We must be ALERT - walking circumspectly! (Eph 5:15-17; 6:10-18)

Are You Laboring? (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

- ① (v. 50) We CANNOT enter the kingdom of Heaven “just as we are” – we must be **changed**. (1 Cor 6:9-11; Rev 21:8; 22:15; Gal 5:19-21)
- ② (v. 51) It is a mystery (1 John 3:2) but we **all** will be changed.
 - ★ Some to spend eternity in heaven.
 - ✘ Some to spend eternity in hell.
 - ☆ We **all** will be changed? – What about you?
- ③ (v. 52) The change will happen “in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye” at the last trumpet.
- ④ (v. 52) This “last trumpet” will signal a resurrection and a gathering of God's elect. (Matthew 13:)
- ⑤ (v. 57) This **dramatic** change from mortality to immortality; from being corruptible to incorruption happens as a result of the work of Christ.
- ⑥ (v. 58) **THEREFORE**, since we have this promise, we are to be **steadfast, immovable, always abounding** in the **work** of the Lord.

The Last Trumpet Is Scheduled! (Acts 1:8)

- ARE YOU READY? • ARE YOU REAL?

God' Prophets: God's Trumpeters (Ezekiel 33:1-11)

- (Ezekiel 33:1-11) God's prophets (God's spokesmen) were called upon to be God's **watchmen**.
- God's spokesmen were called to **warn** the **unrighteous AND** the **righteous**.
- God called upon His watchmen to “blow the trumpet (shofar)” to arrest people's attention to **return** to God's ways! (Isaiah 58:1; Joel 2:1, 15; Hosea 8:1; Amos 3:6; Zephaniah 1:12-18; **Jeremiah 6:16-17**)
 - ☆ (vv. 2-5) The consequences of heeding or ignoring the watchman's warning.
 - ☆ (v. 6) BUT if the watchman (God's spokesman) refuses to warn the people (“blow the trumpet”) then God will require the death of sinners on his hands!!! (**2 Timothy 4:1-4**)

Watchmen Are NEEDED TODAY!

- We live in a danger zone - in a war zone. (Ephesians 5:15-17)
- TODAY (NOW) is not the time for “feel good” sermons. TODAY is the time for SERIOUS WARNINGS!
- The enemy is **all** around us.
 - Satan and his demons: Ephesians 6:12
 - The flesh (which is always at war with the Spirit): 1 Peter 2:11; Romans 7:23; 8:13; Galatians 5:17, 24
 - The world (which is controlled by Satan): 1 John 2:16
- ★ We are in the midst of a **moral revolution** as has never been experienced in history! (**Isaiah 5:20; Proverbs 17:15; Malachi 2:17; 3:15; 2 Tim 3:1-5**)