ARE YOU WATCHING????? August 10, 2020

**Matthew 24:42 NKJV**

42**Watch** therefore, for you do not know what [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+24%3A42&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24000a)]hour your Lord is coming.

**Mark 13:33  NKJV**

33Take heed, **watch** and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

I have been thinking about my (our) Mom lately who passed away 31 years ago at the age of 60.  She was a Mom to 7 children and the wife of a physician…  And yet I have been remembering that as she aged and had different medical issues going on, she refused to go to a doctor to be examined.  Her philosophy was if I don’t go, then I don’t have to know realistically what is going on, nor do I have to deal with it….   That way of living obviously did not serve her well,  nor our family.             We sure do miss her.

**Hosea 4:6**

6My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge…..

 I often time ask the question: What do you know for sure & what can you count on? And in my spirit I always hear the Holy Spirit respond to me the same way. I am faithful and true. In these uncertain, unprecedented times I encourage you to know without a doubt that HE who has called you is faithful and true. And I also encourage you to not follow my Mom’s pattern of denial.

**Revelation 19:11 (NKJV) Christ on a White Horse**

11Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

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It’s been 2 weeks since our last ZOOM message and once again so much has happened around the world, including the Frontline Doctors standing in from of the Supreme Court sharing medical information about the efficacy of hydroxychloroquine, zinc and a Z-pack. It looks like if taken within the first 5 days of COVID symptoms this protocol will crash the virus. Of course you can’t seem to get HYDROXY here in the US. Hummmmm… wonder why ???

Just recently the WHO (World Health Organization) came out with the announcement that asymptomatic people are not infectious. That’s good news and makes sense !!!

 Candace Owens says, “Coronavirus is the greatest rigging of an American election that has ever taken place.” I like to call this *election infection*.

And what about the Beirut, Lebanon blast ??? Still under investigation. And another one… the 5.1 earthquake in North Carolina over this past weekend…. The strongest in that area in 100 or so years. All part of the signs and season we are in.

And the cancel culture continues on in their quest as does the defunding the police movement. The human trafficking issue is bigger than big… A child in America is 66,667 times more likely to be sold to human traffickers than die of COVID-19. In addition, masks assist in them being transported undetected and unidentified to anyone.

It’s insanity !!! Who knew we’d be living out George Orwell’s famous story, 1984. Here’s just one quote from that book.

*“Obedience is not enough. Unless he is suffering, how can you be sure that he is obeying your will and not his own? Power is in inflicting pain and humiliation. Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing.* “

And here’s more… There is an ongoing attack on Christianity in the US. These excerpts from Pastor Larry Ecton, a local pastor here in Denver on 8/9/20, says,

“And for four months now I have been praying and studying and working and teaching to PROTECT you – by examining God’s word in a very different way than I have before, in order to passionately exhort us (yes, me included) to become much stronger and more consciously intentional in our faith. I’ve been doing this in order to prepare us all – as best I know how – for what I am (sadly) certain is now coming upon the church.

For many years (400 or more) the church in America has been enjoying the safety and blessings and privileges of what I call a “bubble,” within which the church has grown and flourished, though it has also become DANGEROUSLY COMFORTABLE AND COMPLACENT…and therefore also WEAK. Like an athlete who stops doing resistance-training, our (spiritual) muscles have atrophied, and the religious passions that motivated the early settlers have become little more than a paragraph in an old history book.

In addition, over the past 57 years, the church in America has allowed the awareness and public respect and honor of God to be removed from our society, bit-by-bit, including especially in our schools. Then the abominations of baby-murder (60+ million), homosexuality and other sexual perversions, the destruction of the biblical family, and now, in the current alleged health crisis, THE VERY FREEDOM OF OUR FAITH IS UNDER DIRECT ASSAULT.

The bubble has burst, and the culture in which we find ourselves is revealing OPEN HOSTILITY TO CHRISTIANITY, increasing every day. I am abashed, angered, and appalled at what our governmental leaders are either outright doing, or turning a blind eye to allow these things to happen.

There’s a few of the things that have been happening to the church in America over the past four months, with the most egregious even in the last week:

- Ordered not to meet
- When things loosened a bit, ordered to use masks and so-called social distancing
- Then could only have a few people in for a service
- Threatened to be permanently closed
- Ordered not to sing worship songs to our Lord
- Pastors and elders being threatened with $1000/day fines, arrest, and 30-90 days imprisonment. (CA Governor Newsom)
- Power and water utilities being shut off if churches won’t obey draconian rules
- Court rulings denying our right to practice our faith
- Bibles being burned by unrestrained mobs while authorities look on
- Organized and powerful movements to remove the First Amendment’s guarantee of freedom to practice our faith

 Of course, we pray and do battle on our knees against the forces of evil behind all this – knowing that, in the ultimate end, the Church will be victorious. But until then I must do all I can to protect you – by exhorting us all to be strong, very strong in our faith – because the environment in which we now live out our faith is drastically changing – and I desperately want you to be able to withstand in the evil day as hostility increases against us.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, **AND HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND**.

As you know, none of this is really unexpected. We’ve always known that hard times would come upon the Church – but that ‘bubble’ of protection has led us to live and think that that was the norm, “the way it’s always been,” even while we’ve known, mentally, that faithful believers have always been persecuted for their faith. In fact, we’ve specifically studied it, many times. But now, you see, it is here, right on our doorstep. And it has come very fast, even though rumblings have been increasing for years.

One good thing about all of this is that Jesus’ church is being PRUNED, SHAKEN, and as it becomes less convenient and comfortable, PEOPLE ARE FALLING AWAY – the chaff, the make-believers, the goats. Almost every day we hear of some prominent person leaving the faith that they never really had in the first place.

For others – and I pray all of you – it is a somber time of GIRDING UP, refreshing ourselves on God’s Truth, becoming consistent in prayer, and getting ready for both the hostility that is coming, and – Maranatha – for our Lord’s return. As the apostle Peter said:

**1 Peter 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

He’s exhorting the church to get mentally ready, being sober-minded, and placing our hope fully on God’s grace that we have received when Jesus Christ was revealed to us.

But, and I have to confess, that what concerns me is that – because it hasn’t directly hit us yet (at least not this week), we might not be able to fully accept that it is real, tangible. It just seems too outrageous for us to grasp. But believe it we must, and again, my heart’s desire is to see you stand when it hits us – stand strong in your faith no matter what threats or violence they bring against us.

I encourage you to watch the news to learn what is happening, but not the lies of the mainstream media.” (Larry’s entire letter to his church will be uploaded with our notes.)

And to finish up: I read this article from The Colorado Herald (Journalism Without the Mainstream Spin) ….. It will also be posted on the website under this week’s recording.

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I couldn’t sign off without mentioning this wonderful report.

Isn’t it exciting to watch Sean Feucht move about the country leading 1000’s in worship. History was made in Portland this past Saturday where 1000’s gathered without fear. Sean and his family witnessed genuine racial reconciliation. They saw 100s radically saved and set free and hundreds ran to the river to get baptized. They witnessed God show up in a place so many had written off… And then off they went to Seattle.. and the same thing happened again!

**In closing**, if you are fearful, if you are feeling helpless, or alone, or are tempted to hide and ignore what is happening because you just don’t want to believe it, or if you or someone you know is being tempted to walk away from Jesus Christ and His Church because it is becoming dangerous – please contact us, so that we can pray with you and bring the peace of God and the hope of our Lord to you. Keep watching… Our redemption draweth nigh.