

“If A Man Keep My Saying, He Shall Never Taste Of Death”

(John 8:51)

(All scriptures are given in the King James Version of the Bible)

Jesus’ Teaching In Luke 21:34-36:

³⁴ And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. ³⁵ For as a snare shall it (tribulation?) come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. (Luke 21:34-36—my parentheses above).

Here Jesus was teaching a very serious, yet simple lesson to His disciples concerning the end times and His coming for His own church. His compassion and love for His Church is openly shown here in Luke 21, where He exhorts the disciples and others “*to take heed for yourselves*”. The devil is so much slyer and stronger than the Christian, yet we do not seem to understand what could befall us when under spiritual attack. Yet, He still commands us today, to...

*“Take heed for yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be stricken by evil temptations and you become deceived by your own slothfulness and the cares of life—and betrayed by corruptions of this world. For as a trap (snare), terror and destruction shall come upon **all them that dwell on the face of the entire earth.** Watch, therefore, and pray always, that you will be considered worthy by your God to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”*

Who are they that dwell upon the whole earth during the 7-year Tribulation period? (See the attachment at the end of this article).

Though the Word of God makes clear the terrifying end of many who seemingly will not pay attention to these words, Jesus gives clear warning nevertheless. His care for we who decide to serve Him for the rest of our lives is also extremely evident in His grave precautions to usward today! It’s possible we will be able to miss the pre-Tribulation rapture of the Church because of our determination to live in our own incomplete world—believing we will not be “misplaced” when the Savior is ordered by the Father to come for His Church. Don’t count on it. Jesus not only revealed to us the frailties of the human flesh while under dire circumstances, but He also gave us an alternative—“*to watch and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*”

All Christians will stand before His throne immediately following the rapture of the Church at the scene called “The Judgment Seat of Christ” in Revelation 4:4.

Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. (Nahum 1:6).

I have considered the seriousness of Luke 21:34-36. Do we realize many Christians may not make it to the pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church because of the coming “times of trial” on mankind?

Linda and I met Chuck and Julie about 15 years ago. Soon, we became friends and while we attended the same church we really didn't see them in church very often because Chuck was on call 24 hours per day. When Chuck worked on Sunday, Julie sometimes stayed home, failing to phone someone to pick her up. The times Chuck and Julie missed gradually became long periods of time missed. Then Chuck was smoking and drinking—followed by Julie. Finally, they failed to attend church at all. Linda and I continued praying for the couple, and though they had extended families living nearby, we never saw them in Church.

Linda and I spent off-times with them for fellowship and prayer, but the time come when we felt we had to release them, hoping they would return to Church. Because we would smell cigarette smoke when we visited and saw alcohol signs around their property, we decided we could do no more other than to continue praying.

Julie notified Linda and I months later to let us know that Chuck was in very serious condition—to the point that even the medical staff could not say if he would survive. Churches began to pray and intercede over Chuck and Julie's lives and was able to learn that Chuck was about 150 miles away in the hospital. On our visit, we were elated to see that Chuck was alert and was praising God for His healing and presence. Chuck testified as did Julie to the grace and blessed presence of the Lord now in their lives and His restored presence. They were determined to continue in Him for the rest of their days on earth.

On release from the hospital, Chuck and Julie began attending church anew, doing well for a while, but the wiles of the enemy of their soul entered the scene once again; and finally we saw the same signs of sin and cares of this world that had already taken them down a long and terrifying walk with oncoming death. The scriptures show us there is grief in heaven over even one who belongs to Christ, then falls away.

Recently, we saw Chuck and Julie in our church again, but we haven't seen them since. That reminds me of the precautions Jesus urgently shared with His disciples that day about two-thousand years ago. I wonder, Chuck and Julie...will you ever return to your Savior?

What did Jesus mean when He used the word "snare"? We know it (the snare) will come on "*all who are the dwellers of the whole earth*". Let me just use a biblical definition:

¹⁰ Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. ¹¹ I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; *but time and chance happeneth to them all.* ¹² For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; *so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.* (Ecclesiastes 9:10-12—my italics; underline)

³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith: but *if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.* ³⁹ But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. (Hebrews 10:38-39)

Jesus' Teaching In Revelation 3:7-10:

The ancient Church at Philadelphia is spoken of here in Revelation three. Verses 7-10 are very appropriate for this article, as it is our Savior Jesus speaking to this Church with praise. She was a faithful church that kept the Word of God. Philadelphia did not deny His Name or authority; and they had opposed the things of the world, resisted the sins of some of the other churches and had persevered in loyalties to Christ Jesus and the truth of the New Testament gospel. This is what Jesus said in Revelation 3:7-10:

⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; ⁸ I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. ⁹ Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. ¹⁰ Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

The Keys of David: The past—Isaiah called for judgment on a corrupt Government. God judged Shebna, treasurer and leader of the Egyptian faction of Jerusalem. Thinking his position was secure, he had ordered a large tomb for he own memory among the people. Instead, Isaiah predicts that Shebna will soon be demoted and will eventually die a pauper in a foreign country. God replaced Shebna with honorable Eliakim during the reign of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:18; Isaiah 22). The keys of David refers to responsibility in protecting the Davidic line, and Eliakim was selected to handle these keys as a protector of the keys. It was known that the holder of these keys would be offered entry into every liberty in the kingdom.

The Present: (Verses 7-9) However, just as Shebna dishonored these keys, so will there be those in Philadelphia who choose to walk in their own path; verse 8 simply acknowledges the faith in the majority; but to those who fail to overcome, Christ will judge accordingly just as He will judge those who fail to overcome in the other 6 Churches.

In Verse 10, Jesus Says this:

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

The overcomers in the Philadelphia Church will hold God's Word in their heart even to the very end. They will be "kept" from the entire time of the 7-year Tribulation period because of their faithfulness to the Savior; then will be raptured along with the rest of Christ's bride in Revelation 4:1-4).

⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalm 1: 5-6). We are acquitted before Him as our Judge.

to have boldness in the day of Christ (that is supposed in our *escaping* all those things), but to *stand before him*, to attend on him as our Master, to stand continually before his throne, and

serve him day and night in his temple, always to *behold his face*, as the angels, (Rev. 7:15; Matthew 18:10)