



Are We Living in the End Times?

By Pastor Jason Triplett

Matthew 24:14 (ESV) “*And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the*

whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

Yes, we are living in the end times. But that doesn't mean what you might think it means.

Once a week for about a year, I have been asked some variation of the question above.

“*Are we living in the end times?*” The short answer is “yes” we are definitely living in the end times. The long answer is a bit more complex.

People like to know when significant events are coming. My wife and I like to plan our lives in one month, six month and yearlong intervals. So, when something as enormous as the end of days arrives, people want to be prepared. We'd like to be able to predict events like this. We've got things we'd like to do, and we want to have them wrapped up by the time Christ returns. But therein lies the problem.

We read passages like Mark 13:35, “*Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come...*” or 1 Thessalonians 5:2 “*For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*” We can begin to understand why tracing when the end comes isn't as important as being ready for when it comes.

When Jesus spoke to His disciples about the end in the Matthew 24 passage above, He wasn't talking about the end happening in their lifetime. The Bible deals with time in spans that supersede our tendency to focus on the immediacy of “when”. The Bible

speaks of generations and eras more than exact moments when an event will occur. This is by God's design for two reasons.

First, a life of faith is trusting even when we cannot see. Faith challenges us to believe even when we are hearing so many things that run contrary to it. Knowing when the end of days will come would work against our faith. If we knew, then we'd be tempted to live by that knowledge instead of by the graceful leadership of God. It's too advanced a task for us to simultaneously know when the end is coming and still live by the faith that saves us.

The second reason can be found in the Matthew 24 passage. The good news of Jesus Christ, the Gospel, must be preached to the entire world, *to all nations*, before God will bring about the end of days. We've not yet seen the rise of all nations that will come, and God is not willing that any would perish. The disciples definitely had no concept of the Gospel spreading to the entire world. God's not waiting to prolong our collective suffering, He's waiting so as many people as possible can come to know His Son Jesus and be saved.

Are we living in the end times? Yep, we are. When Jesus taught His disciples about this, we now know that He spoke of the immediate and the distant. He spoke of the emerging “generation”, the dawn of a time span, which began at His resurrection and ends when He returns. It's not up to us to know time of the end, which is the time of His second coming. But it is our job to be ready. May He find us ready in faithfulness, watchfulness and busyness doing His work when He returns.

¹ 2 Peter 3:9

The righteous who walks in his integrity -
blessed are his children after him!

Prov 20:7

Fathers Day

June 20

S
U
M
M
E
R

CHURCH IN THE PARK!

SUNDAY JULY 25TH – SCRIPPS PARK

CHURCH @ 9:45AM

LUNCH TO FOLLOW

SWIM TIME @ SCRIPPS PARK POOL

1PM–4PM

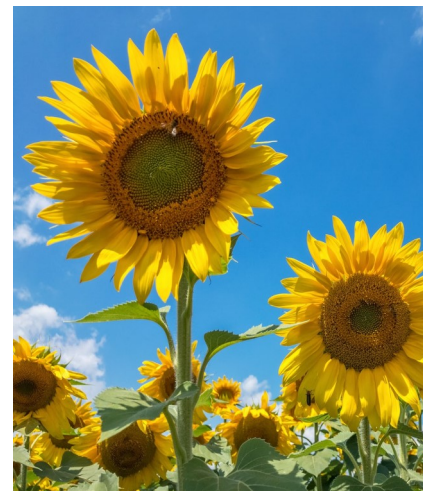
BRING A LAWN CHAIR!

THE SEARCH CONTINUES...



Please continue to pray
with us as we search for an
Associate Minister to serve
with RCC.

Thanks! The RCC Elders



TO CONTACT PASTOR JASON
(309)331-0200 (talk/text)
jasontriplett99@gmail.com

Prayers & Praises

Updated: 6/7/2021

Unity in Schuyler County

Liz Wood - cancer

Leaders of our country & military

Dan Norton - stroke recovery

Stan Prentice surgery recovery

Family of Dan Davis

Family of Eldon Akers

Ann Crook health

Nathan Ralston

Garrett Collins - Cancer is back

Family of Emma McGovern

Family of Gail Triplett

10 year old James Pax (Thelma's cousin's grandson) has Stage 4 Cancer

Family of Tim Gilliland

Rick Ashcraft - Praise for a great report!

Janet Detrick - Cancer

Jane Wright - health

Associate Pastor search

Alisha's grandmother - starting breast cancer treatments

Thelma - health

Kailey Orwig - deployed to South Korea

Abigail Norton - deployed to Africa

Church Building Need

May OFFERINGS:

May 2 - \$ 2011.17

May 9 - \$ 1689.67

May 16 - \$ 1539.42

May 23 - \$ 3466.92

May 30 - \$ 1919.22

SPECIAL GIVING:

Hannah's Song Ministries \$250.00

Building Needs \$2000.00

Prayer Requests can be submitted and updated through the online Prayer card. Find it at rushvillechurchofchrist.com

