9/4/22

Sunday pm

Last Days Series: “What Should We Expect?”

Sermon: “Signs as We Near the End”

Matthew 24:1-14

Layout of series:

When Death Comes (8/28/22)

Signs As We Near the End (9/4/22)

The Rapture, p1 (9/18/22)

The Rapture, p2 (9/25/22)

The Post-Rapture Church (10/16/22)

Tribulation Overview (10/23/22)

Tribulation, p2: 144,000 and 2 Witnesses (10/30/22)

Tribulation, p3: Antichrist (11/6/22)

The Return of Christ (11/20/22)

The Millennial Kingdom (11/27/22)

Last Battle/Resurrection of the Lost/Great White Throne Judgement (12/4/22)

New Heaven and New Earth (12/11/22)

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* Disciples’ dialogue with Jesus about the ornate, beautiful, and large temple
  + Jesus: “Not one of these stones will be left on another. It’ll all be destroyed.”
    - This was fulfilled in AD 70 when the Romans destroyed it.
  + The disciples, eager for Jesus to usher in His kingdom, questioned Him privately: “When will this be and what will be the sign of your coming (coming to power; ascending to power – not necessarily coming a second time) and of the end of the age?”
  + Jesus proceeded to answer them…
* We are in the Last Days
  + The last days is a reference to the era between the first and second coming of Christ
    - Acts 2:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; Hebrews 9:26; 1 Peter 1:20; 1 John 2:18
  + The coming of Christ ***is*** the end of the age. This is when He returns in power to establish His kingdom on the Earth (Rev 19 – we will look more into this later)
    - Note: His second coming and the rapture are not the same thing (More on this next week)
* Signs of the Last Days (these will increase as His appearing nears)
  + Natural disasters
    - Famines, earthquakes, etc. (NKJ adds pestilences)
      * “The report, "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World," says world hunger rose in 2021, with around 2.3 billion people facing moderate or severe difficulty obtaining enough to eat. The number facing severe food insecurity increased to about 924 million.” -UN
      * 16,849 earthquakes in 2021
      * Lake Mead: The lake's level has fallen **nearly 160 feet** since July 2000 and **26 feet** since July 2021
  + Wars/conflicts
  + Persecution of the church
    - VOM
  + False teachers
  + A “falling away”
  + Lawlessness
  + Because of that, the love of many will grow cold
  + Morality, behaviors, and attitudes? (**2 Timothy 3:1-9; 12-13**)
    - Lovers of self
    - Lovers of money
    - Proud, arrogant
    - Abusive
    - Disobedient to parents
    - Ungrateful
* What are we to do?
  + Not in Christ? Repent, turn to Jesus. “Count the patience of our Lord as salvation…” (2 Peter 3:15) His waiting is provision for you to repent.
  + Already His?
    - Don’t fear. No one can snatch you out of His hand (John 10:28)
    - Continue in His word (2 Tim 3:14)
    - Follow Him in living godly lives as we wait for our blessed hope (Titus 2:13)
      * “…Be self-controlled, sober-minded…keep loving one another earnestly…show hospitality without grumbling…use your gifts to serve one another…” 1 Peter 4:7-11
      * Living “lives of holiness and godliness…being diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish and at peace.” (2 Peter 3:11-14)
      * “…take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:17-18)
    - Beware of false teachers who are designed to try to lead you astray (Matt 24:4)
    - Endure to the end (Matt 24:13) – a sign and an exhortation
    - Proclaim the gospel (Matt 24:14)
      * Matt 28; Rom 10