

# THE TRUTH

Instructor: Evangelist Carlton Knott

## Lesson 4 - The Truth About Last Day Signs Pt. 1

In the last lesson we dealt with the reality of Christ's literal return to this world. When will all this take place? We cannot know exactly, for the Bible says, "Of that day and hour knoweth no man." [Matthew 24:36] However, we can know when this grand event is near. Christ said that when we see "all these things" come to pass we will know that His return is imminent. [Matthew 24:33] Just as a traveler knows by the landmarks that he is approaching his destination, so Christ has given us signs to indicate when we are nearing earth's climax.

1. Why did Jesus reprove the Pharisees and the Sadducees? [Matthew 16:1-3] Ans. For their \_\_\_\_\_ to read the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** If the Jewish people in the days of Christ had understood the \_\_\_\_\_ which pertained to the first advent of the Messiah, they would have recognized Jesus of Nazareth, the promised Messiah, and the Saviour of the world.

But they rejected Him, because they did not understand the \_\_\_\_\_ that pertained to His first advent. This is a warning to professed Christians today. Unless professed Christians heed the \_\_\_\_\_ that pertain to Christ's second advent they will be in the dark and be caught unprepared at His second coming, as the Jews were at His first advent.

2. Once a Christian is aware of the signs of the times, what should he do? [Romans 13:11-13] Ans. Become \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_ things.

### PESSIMISTIC – DOOM OR GLOOM - OPTIMISTIC

Focusing on the future can be a frightening experience. When it comes to last day events, we usually fall into one of three groups. **a.** The pessimist puts its head in the sand and refuses to look. **b.** Then we have the 'doom and gloomers,' who are irresistibly drawn to these events and are captivated. However, they focus on the end and neglect the present. In other words, they are so heavenly minded, that they are no earthly good. **c.** Then we have the die-hard optimists, who see these events but keep them in their proper prospective. They are working, watching and praying.

### 23 LAST DAY SIGNS

The last days are to be characterized by great:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ injustice and social \_\_\_\_\_ [James 5:1-7]

**NOTE:** Since the turn of the century we have seen mounting tension between capital and labor. Almost daily we read accounts of new strikes. Many are amassing wealth while millions are starving to death.

Since the dispute between management and labor will not end until Jesus comes, the Christian is urged to be patient until that time (verse 8.) At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human. The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution--all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France. **[Education, 228]**

2. War preparations **[Joel 3:14, 9, 10]**
3. Disarmament talks **[Isaiah 2:24]**
4. Awakening of the East **[Joel 3:12]**
5. Increase of \_\_\_\_\_ **[Daniel 12:4]**

**NOTE:** Prophecy is unfolding before our eyes. Mankind is surely running to and fro. Knowledge is increasing so rapidly that it doubles in less than ten years, we can't even keep our textbooks up to date.

6. Unrest and upheaval **[Luke 21:25-27]**
7. Craze for \_\_\_\_\_ **[2 Timothy 3:14]**

The world, full of rioting, full of godless pleasure, is asleep, asleep in carnal security. Men are putting afar off the coming of the Lord. They laugh at warnings. The proud boast is made, "All things continue as they were from the beginning." "Tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant." **[2 Peter 3:4; Isaiah 56:12]** We will go deeper into pleasure loving. But Christ says, "Behold, I come as a thief." **[Revelation 16:15]** At the very time when the world is asking in scorn, "Where is the promise of His coming?" the signs are fulfilling. While they cry, "Peace and safety," sudden destruction is coming. When the scorner, the rejecter of truth, has become presumptuous; when the routine of work in the various money-making lines is carried on without regard to principle; when the student is eagerly seeking knowledge of everything but his Bible, Christ comes as a thief. **[The Desire of Ages, 635]**

8. Religious \_\_\_\_\_ **[Luke 18:8]**

Religious skepticism sometimes has to do with the practitioners of religion. Sadly, some religious people are immoral, dishonest, or just plain mean. Some skeptics have had bad experiences with religion in the past. According to the Barna Group, the biggest reason religious skepticism has grown among Millennials (those born between 1985 and 2002) rests on personal interactions with "Christians" who were truly un-Christian. Religious hypocrisy has left many disillusioned and disengaged from the faith that once solidified the Western world.

9. Intemperance and physical degeneracy. **[Luke 17:29, 30; Ezekiel 16:49, 50]**
10. Falling \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ truth. **[2 Timothy 4:1-4; Isaiah 30:8-10]**

A high salary is paid for a talented minister to entertain and attract the people. His sermons must not touch popular sins, but be made smooth and pleasing for fashionable ears. Thus fashionable sinners are enrolled on the church records, and fashionable sins are concealed under a pretense of godliness. **[GC 386.1]**

Today there is need of the voice of stern rebuke; for grievous sins have separated the people from God. Infidelity is fast becoming fashionable. "We will not have this man to reign over us," is the language of thousands. Luke 19:14. The smooth sermons so often preached make no lasting impression; the trumpet

does not give a certain sound. Men are not cut to the heart by the plain, sharp truths of God's word. [PK 140.2]

11. \_\_\_\_\_ degeneracy. [Luke 17:28; Romans 1:26]

The flames that consumed the cities of the plain shed their warning light down even to our time. We are taught the fearful and solemn lesson that while God's mercy bears long with the transgressor, there is a limit beyond which men may not go on in sin. When that limit is reached, then the offers of mercy are withdrawn and the ministration of judgment begins. [Patriarchs and Prophets, 162]

**The last days are to be a time of:**

12. Rapid transit [Nahum. 2:3-5]  
13. Unparalleled travel [Daniel 12:4]  
14. Destructive insects and pests, etc. [Joel 1:1-4; 2:1]  
15. Destructive \_\_\_\_\_ [Luke 21:11]

Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. [5T, 136]

16. Abounding lawlessness [Matthew 24:12]  
17. \_\_\_\_\_ [Ezekiel 7:23]  
18. Breaking of the \_\_\_\_\_ vows [Matthew 5:31, 2; 24:37-39]  
19. Scoffing at the Lord's coming [2 Peter 3:3-5]  
20. Turning to \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ [1 Timothy 4:1,2]

**NOTE:** Understandably, many people are searching for something more to life. The glaring failures of religious, political, economic and scientific institutions leave many hungrily reaching for anything to give life meaning. Many universities now offer special courses on the Devil and witchcraft.

In recent years vast arrays of books on occultism have appeared. The manager of one California bookstore chain said that its main store stocks around 2,000 occult-related books "and there are several hundred more available that we just don't have any room for." These books, the manager said, move well, "not only in Hollywood, where you'd expect it, but in all of our stores." Business Week magazine reports that both business and government are seriously investigating extrasensory perception (ESP) and other "psychic" powers for possible use in their operations.

21. Deceptive \_\_\_\_\_ [Revelation 16:14; Deut. 13:1-3]

Satan is using men to deceive fellow men and this he does via "great signs and wonders." Increasing deception will mark the "end time." In ancient times, prophets were judged to be true, *not* based on the \_\_\_\_\_ they wrought, *but* based on the \_\_\_\_\_ they taught. [See Deut. 13:1-3]

22. Rise of many false \_\_\_\_\_ [Matthew 24:24]

False religious leaders are alive and well today, gaining influence not only in the church but also out in the world at large. Some have been written about in popular magazines and major newspapers, being hailed as the new generation of Christian leaders whom the world can work with. They are well spoken of by the

cultural elite. According to news.com.au, at least six other men have claimed to be Jesus Christ reincarnated in the last decade.

- Mitsuo Matayoshi of Japan
- Vissarion of Siberia
- Bupete Chibwe Chishimba of Zambia
- José Luis de Jesús Miranda of the USA
- Moses Hlongwane of South Africa
- David Shayler of England
- Alan John Miller of Queensland

The end time could very well be near if we look at the number of people around the globe who are rising up to say that they are indeed the Messiah. If we want to avoid being led astray by false prophets, the best safeguard, beyond all questions, is the regular study of the Word of God.

23. Giving the special message to the entire world to prepare the way for the coming of Christ.  
**[Revelation 14:6-14]**

**NOTE:** This makes a list of 23 different items that Bible prophecy declared would be seen in the last days of this world's history. Every person knows that every one of these twenty-three items is now taking place before our very eyes. What does all this mean? It means exactly what Jesus said in **Matthew 24:33**, "When you see all these things know that it is near, even at the door."

**3. In lieu of these last day signs what are we repeatedly admonished to do? [Matthew 24:42, 25:13; Mark 13:35] Ans. \_\_\_\_\_**

**NOTE:** Jesus and the apostles exhort us to actively "watch!" We need to understand all that they meant and the wide-ranging implications. Our survival and salvation could depend on that understanding and action. To watch in the sense here used, is more than merely being awake. It means to be alert, to scan eagerly, to observe in order to look after, to protect or guard. The admonition to "watch" has many applications:

- Watch our \_\_\_\_\_ **[2 Thessalonians 2:3]**
- Watch our \_\_\_\_\_ **[Proverbs 7:12]**
- Watch our \_\_\_\_\_ **[Proverbs 12:26 NKJV]**
- Watch our \_\_\_\_\_ **[Galatians 5:19-21]**
- Watch our Church \_\_\_\_\_ **[Hebrews 10:25]**
- Watch our \_\_\_\_\_ **[Proverbs 4:23]**
- Watch our \_\_\_\_\_ **[Psalms 39:1]**
- Watch lest you fall \_\_\_\_\_ **[Mark 13:36]**

The story is told of a woman, who on her wedding day, went upstairs and saw an old chest, in fun, she stepped into it, thinking she would be able to hide herself for an hour and that the wedding party would look for her. But a spring lock, lay in ambush for her and locked her down forever. No one found her until years later, when someone moved that old chest, they found her bones there, with her ring still on her finger. The woman had stepped into it for amusement, but was locked down forever.

**TAKE HEED**, that you are not locked down forever by your sins. "One moment's step." she said, but there is a secret lock that lays in every sin, in every worldly amusement. One step from the path of righteousness that is all it takes to be fastened down forever.