

Newsletter

Dear partner,

"... And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Matthew 24:3 (NKJV)



Many people are wondering what is to become of this world. Times are so uncertain. There is so much loneliness, people are not looking after each other anymore. Nobody is safe anymore, and everything is getting worse.

Anyone even remotely Christian can answer the disciples' question in the verse mentioned above. Namely, that there will be wars and rumors of wars, famines, infectious diseases and earthquakes (Matthew 24:6-7). These events are 'bad', but to most of us still at a distance.

Jesus, however, in verse 4, starts His answer with a warning: **"Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."**

Many people do not seem to be afraid of this either, but things start to get a bit closer from verse 8. Then Jesus starts prophesying about tribulation, hate and persecution, even the possibility of being killed for His Name's sake, and that for this reason many will be offended or stumble and will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then Jesus goes a bit further and **PROPHESIES that many false prophets will rise up and deceive many** (verse 11 and 24).

Deceiving is misleading, tricking, blindfolding, disadvantaging, leading in the wrong direction. Now we often think that this will not happen to

us. And yet Jesus PROPHESED these things, that is, said in advance WHAT, and THAT it WILL happen. That is why in verse 42 Jesus says: **"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."**

The only way to not be deceived, is to **abide in the Word of God**. The greatest deception is when that deception looks a lot like the truth. That happens, for instance, when the Word of God is indeed being used, but not in the right context, or only half verses. You would be amazed how many people are blind to the Word of God. That shows me even more how current the Bible is. The Bible gives us answers for everything.

In 1 Timothy 4:1-2 Paul tells Timothy: *"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.**"*

Do you not believe that many people are spiritually "blind"? Then how come so many people follow false doctrines? How many people have not yielded to the teaching that the corona vaccine was the mark of the beast, or at least were confused by it? How many people have not believed the conspiracy theories, and starting to join all the talking about politics (as if all of a sudden they had knowledge of it, and as if corruption in politics was something new, and as if we should be busy with it anyway)? How many people completely agree with the (so-called) 'grace' messages, in which it is explained that 'it does not matter when you sin, because Jesus has already done everything', and 'while you are sinning, He is already pleading for you', so actually a license for sin?

While we know, according to John, that “... *whoever is born of God **does not sin**; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.*” 1 John 5:18. (In other words, the wicked one DOES touch him who does sin.)

Jesus says that He is the Good Shepherd, and that His sheep ‘hear His Voice,’ and that they ‘follow Him, because they know His Voice.’ But also that they ‘will by no means follow a stranger’ (see John 10:1-16).

Could it be possible that the multitudes who follow false teachings, are actually not followers of Jesus? Was it not prophesied that in the last days people “*will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables*” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

The answer for us is the same solution Paul gave Timothy: “Preach **the word**! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and **teaching**” (verse 1-2).

Let us dig into and delight in the Lord and in His Word more than ever. The answer to any problem, any trial, any crisis is the Word of the Living God.

In a pandemic we do not all have to become medical and/or political experts, because THE EXPERT in any area has already spoken in His Word. In the Bible we find ‘cause and result’ of any problem. Usually the solution is REPENTANCE.

We have to, especially in this time, be watchful. We need to be careful what we listen to (or rather not listen to).

Do you also love the Good Shepherd and His Word so much? Then you also may be sure of a glorious future, forever in the Presence of The Living God, Jesus Christ. Or are you someone who would

rather let your ‘itching ears’ be scratched by what ‘your flesh would like to hear’?

We pray that, if you are one of the latter, you will open your heart and, instead of listening to whomever, ask God to open up your understanding, like Jesus did for His disciples (Luke 24:45), and that you will start spending time to seek God’s Word and finding the truth in it. We pray that, if you are one of the first, you may remain steadfast and that you will stay in the Word of God.

We would like to welcome all of you to follow the messages by attending our meetings, in person or online, and join us on our journeys through the Bible. And... make sure to bring your Bible with you, to see if what is being taught is actually in there (Acts 17:11).

International

There have been no mission trips this year, but we thank God for modern technology, by which Vernon can stay in contact with people/churches all over the world. For example, also during this past year he has regularly spoken in ‘online meetings’ in Malaysia. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit know no boundaries.

The Voice to the Nations church in Trinidad regularly follow our meetings on Youtube. Vernon has a lot of contact with them and of course hopes he can visit them all again soon.

The Netherlands

In the Netherlands, we started having our meetings in a building again this past year. We really felt that, though we had not gathered together in person, our church had been going on strong all the time!

We kept broadcasting our meetings on our Youtube channel (where they can all be viewed later as well).

Vernon also preached the Word in several other churches this year. He was very happy to be able to minister the Word to the people in person. It is always amazing to see the Word and power of God in action.

We look forward to serving our Lord in 2023 as well. We pray that you may experience the presence and blessings of God the coming year and be ready when Jesus comes!

Your co-laborers in Christ,
Vernon & Ans & Christa

Agenda

On our website you will find where and when there will be meetings, under Agenda.

You can follow our meetings on Youtube every Friday at 19.30 h. and every Sunday at 10.30 h.:
www.youtube.com/user/Voicetothenations1/live

Practical information

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