

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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SERMON SERIES

GLAD THAT YOU ASKED

“Are We Living in the Last Days?”

Matthew 24:3-8

I believe one of the most asked questions in our current generation is the question – **Are We Living In The Last Days?** The short answer to the question is, “**Yes, we are.**” Biblically speaking, the end times or “**last days**” began with the Ascension of Christ and will last until the Second Coming or the Rapture of the church. Now that’s a short sermon, isn’t it?

The question is not, “**When will Jesus return?**” The question is, “**What will we do before He gets here?**” The Bible uses terms like, “last days,” “later times,” or “the last hour” to refer to events surrounding the **second coming of Christ** and I am going to preach on that subject next Sunday and my message will be: “**Can We Really Believe That Jesus Is Coming Again?**”

There are two extremes we must avoid about the end times.

- ◆ Sensationalizing
- ◆ Trivializing

Let me give you several observations from my study of the Bible for over 50 plus years and as a pastor for 50 plus years.

I. OBSERVATIONS:

1. We don’t know for sure when Jesus is coming back but we’re certain He is!
2. We must avoid date setting.
3. The aim of prophecy is always practical. Prophecy is not designed to satisfy our curiosity, but to sanctify our character.

II. 11 BIBLICAL SIGNS OF THE LAST DAYS:

1. The Restoration of Israel. **Isaiah 66:8**
2. Increased apostasy. **2 Thessalonians 2:3; Matt. 24:10-12**
3. Growing godlessness. **2 Timothy 3:1-5**
4. Spiritual apathy. **Matthew 24:37-39**

5. False teaching. False teachers have proliferated and will be come even more popular according to **2 Timothy 4:3-4; Matthew 7:15**
6. Natural disasters. As we get nearer to the return of Christ, we will see more and more natural disasters according to **Luke 21:11; Matthew 24:7**
7. Sinful scoffers. **2 Peter 3:3-4**
8. International conflict. **Mark 13:7-8**
9. Rise of antichrists. **Mark 13:5-6; 1 John 2:18; 1 John 4:1**
10. Worldwide gospel proclamation. In **Matthew 24:14**. We are very close to this with missionaries around the world, plus TV, radio and internet that is proclaiming gospel and Bible Translations for each language group.
11. The Increase of Knowledge and Travel **Daniel 12:4**

Let’s wrap up with some lessons for living in the last days. I appreciate Pastor **Ray Pritchard’s perspective:** “*I believe the coming of the Lord must be near. Many Christians before me have said the same thing. I’m taking my stand with them. I’d rather expect Jesus to come in my lifetime and be wrong than to be so in love with the world that I’m not ready to seed Him when He comes.*” And I say **AMEN** and **AMEN**!

What practical ways then should we live in these last days?

III. ACTION STEPS:

1. Live out your faith - **1 John 3:2-3**
2. Rearrange your priorities - **Luke 21:28**
3. Encourage one another - **1 Thessalonians 4:18**
4. Repent and receive Christ. Don’t delay – you could die today!

Or if Jesus could come back tonight, **2 Peter 3:8-10**
I don’t know how to say this any other way. If you don’t know Jesus, you have an appointment with judgment. And there is no escape being exposed unless you put your faith in Jesus Christ this very moment. It’s your choice. What will it be? Remember the words that Jesus said in **Matthew 24:42-44.**