

How Should We Then Live? **By Greg Rangel**

In a series of articles titled “End Time Events” we focused on the end time events of Matthew 24. And proving the words of Jesus to be true, not through personal opinion, but through the historical events that we see taking place right before our eyes, and through the fulfillment of these events as Jesus said, we ought to ask ourselves, how should we then live?

Christian author Francis Schaeffer wrote, “People have presuppositions, and they will live more consistently on the basis of these presuppositions than even they themselves may realize. By presuppositions we mean the basic way an individual looks at life, his basic world-view, the grid through which he sees the world. Presuppositions rest upon that which a person considers to be the truth of what exists. People's presuppositions lay a grid for all they bring forth into the external world. Their presuppositions also provide the basis for their values and therefore the basis for their decisions,” (Francis A. Schaeffer, *How Should We Then Live?* Ch. 1). How true he is! People live according to what they believe to be true. Therefore, if you truly believe the words of Jesus to be true, then you will live according to that belief. For Jesus also said in Matthew 24:13 “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

People like myself that are totally convinced that the words of Jesus are true indeed, and that we are living in the last days, will be awaiting for the return of Jesus Christ, and will endure unto the end. That is, they will last and not give up until the return of Christ. Endurance means something that last's and does not give up, and holding tight to, and not letting go. And since we are believing with all our heart that Jesus can come back at any moment, our manner of living will be totally dedicated to God's divine will. In other words, we will be and should be living a holy and righteous life unto the Lord.

Peter the Apostle wrote in 2Peter 3:10-13 *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”*

Jesus said what He said in Matthew 24:13 because of how difficult it's going to get in the end. Many will indeed give up their faith and stop walking with the Lord Jesus Christ. Job 17:9 says that *“the righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.”*

We are encouraged through Scripture to hold fast to our profession and to not let go. If we truly believe in the Lord, we will hold fast and not give up. Hebrews 2:1 says, *“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”* Heb 4:14 says, *“Seeing then that we have a*

great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.” And Hebrews 10:23 says “*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;).*”

How should we then live? It is unfortunate and as we saw last week that, the love of many has gotten cold. We have seen that, through the way they live and through their actions. The results of their belief are the crimes that they commit. A true belief will endure. But a false belief in God will give up and live according to what is in his heart. How should we then live? Jesus said, “*A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things,*” (Matthew 12:35). You show your faith in God by how you live.

So has God said? Before you bet your life on what man says, read the Bible for yourself and you will soon see that it is the infallible and inerrant Word of God.

Pastor Greg Rangel is the Pastor of Edification Calvary Chapel in Harlingen TX. You may reach him via email at gregrangel@msn.com. You can also get more information of his studies at edificationcalvarychapel.org.