

CHURCH OF THE
E T E R N A L

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." – Matthew 24:14

August 19, 2011

Dear Members, Co-Workers and Friends!

The Bible points to the future and a time when Christ will return. Many have thought that He would return in their lifetime. But those who have understood prophecy know that certain things must first come to pass before this can and will happen.

A problem that exists is that there are many in the world who do not read and understand the Bible. Because they are not spirit-led, they continue to make false predictions that inevitably fail. And because they are often seen as Christians, true Christianity is mocked and derided and perceived to be guilty by association.

We cannot let this dissuade us in the slightest, nor can we fall into the trap of trying to predict when exactly Christ will return! We must continue to be resolute in our beliefs, as well as back them up with complementary actions.

Time is growing short! Most of us have been looking forward for decades to specific prophecies being fulfilled. Have we been in a mode of waiting for so long that we are now in danger of being like the servant in Luke 12:45 who said in his heart "My master is delaying his coming"? Have we come to the conclusion that Christ more than likely will not return for quite a while? Even though we are not setting dates, the parable of the fig tree tells us that time is short (Matthew 24:32-35)—and we must not forget that God declared that He would "make a short work upon the earth" and "cut it short in righteousness" (Romans 9:28), and that He would even shorten the terrible days ahead of us (Matthew 24:22).

The risk in having the point of view that Christ's coming will be delayed is that we can begin to let down in our day-to-day lives and believe that we still have a considerable amount of time to repent and change the attributes in our character that we know to be less than adequate. We put off today what we feel that we can do later. The difference is that the procrastinators know when their deadline is—and we do not. They can hurry up and finish what they need to, because they have a specific date that forces them to be ready. We do not have the same prerogative.

In Matthew 25:13, it is stated, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." We cannot afford to be caught in the mind-set of the "evil servant." Even if we knew when Christ was returning, we cannot afford to put off what we should be doing today, because the building of holy righteous character is not something that we can hurry up and quickly do at the last minute. A true Christian would not act in this manner in any event.

But the fact is that we can let our guard down from time to time. If we have been or are guilty of this, then now is the time to be diligent, because the future is rapidly becoming the present. Events are shaping up and pieces are falling into place for the prophecies that have yet to be carried out.

Do we have eyes to see and ears to hear? Are we persistently "watching and praying" as end-time events are beginning to take shape around us—particularly in Europe and especially in Germany?

For our readers in the USA and Canada, we have included a copy of our most recently printed booklet, "Germany in Prophecy." (A copy of the booklet was distributed separately to our readers in the UK). Please read it and re-read it, if necessary. It would also be a very good idea to become familiar

with our other booklets and Q&A's on the future roles of other countries, including the USA, Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as many countries in the Middle East and Africa. All of this literature has been prepared as a tool to aid us in our understanding of the Bible and its prophetic relevancy for us today.

God has not given us prophecy that we may use it for reasons of vanity or power. And it was certainly not meant to be kept to ourselves. We see some of the reasons for prophecy in 1 Corinthians 14:3-4: "But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church." Note at the end of the verse that it is for the Church, the ones whom God has called out of the world. Even though in this context, the reference to "prophesying" can mean, "inspired preaching" in general, it would also include "inspired preaching" regarding future events.

So prophecy is for US and it is for our enlightenment, encouragement and consolation. The entire book of Revelation is written to show God's and Christ's SERVANTS things which must shortly take place (Revelation 1:1; compare also Revelation 22:6, 16). But once God has opened our minds to the proper understanding of prophecy, He wants us to share it with and proclaim it to others. We read in Revelation 19:10 that God's servants have the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy. And so, God said that the end of this present evil age comes when His Church is preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God in all the world as a witness to all nations (Matthew 24:14)—and that includes the announcement of the coming restoration of God's rule over this earth (Revelation 11:15).

Approximately one-third of the Bible is prophetic in nature—this is way too much to ignore or put on the back burner. Brethren and friends, we need to be informed and aware of what God will be doing, motivated by what will shortly come to fruition, and assuaged by the fact that He is in charge; that He will cut short Satan's rule over this earth; and that He will intervene soon in the affairs of mankind.

With Christian love,


Wray Zehrung