

CHURCH OF THE
G 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 16, 2010

Dear Brethren and Friends:

We are quickly coming up to the Fall festival season, which should be a joyful time of the year for all who continue to faithfully observe what God has commanded. It is a time to reconnect with God, His Word and the brethren, as we celebrate the Holy Days. We are reminded of their meaning for us and for mankind.

Sometimes we are treated to new tidbits from the Bible and other times we are exposed to a deeper understanding of the Truth that we have been familiar with for many years. But for the most part, we will be reminded of things that we already know.

This is an integral portion of the plan of God, though. God, our Creator, knows us and the way that we are made. He knew that without these yearly reminders, we would drift away and be carried off by false beliefs, leaving the knowledge we once knew and held so dearly. Does this sound familiar? Our recent history can attest to this.

Even knowing this principle, it can still be tough to stay focused during the upcoming days and continue in this vein throughout the rest of the year, and the following year, and the following years... especially when we hear much of the same thing time after time. It can often seem like an echo of what someone else covered not too long ago. There is a danger for us when this transpires, especially when the all too common response is to tune out or turn off.

How then do we "stay in the game"? The simple answer is to keep our eye on the big picture and to believe that it is true.

Of course, the big picture is the Kingdom of God to which the gospel points. For nearly the last 2000 years this has been the goal of Christianity, and it is now ours. During all this time, many have believed that Christ would come back in their time and bring the Government of God with Him to Earth. Have we ever thought that maybe we are deluding ourselves in the same way other Christians have since the time of Christ? Doubt like this removes the clarity and sharpness of the big picture. There is a risk for us today to think that Christ delays His coming and that we have more time than we do.

Why then would it be any different for us today than it was for those Christians nearly two millennia ago or even those in the generation prior to ours? The reality is that we preach the *soon* coming Kingdom of God and there is a good reason for this. Notice this allegory concerning the Kingdom of God, where Jesus said, "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all these things take place" (Matthew 24:32-34).

"This generation" is THIS GENERATION!

We have seen the signs that indicate that this is true and that we are living in the end times (as we

continue to point them out in many facets of our preaching the gospel and feeding the flock). Subsequently, our perspective should be changing—the big picture should be getting BIGGER as the reality of these events sinks in. This is the target, the soon coming Kingdom of God; on that we are to continually have our sights set. We need to redouble our efforts to zero in on this and make it our number one priority.

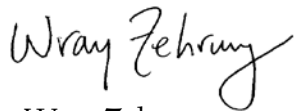
“The *only* other thing that we need to do is believe. That is all, just believe!”

This is exactly what many professing Christians say. The problem with this is that they do not carry it to a logical conclusion. Here is what is missing: if we believe, we will act accordingly! For instance, if we believe in gravity, we will not jump out of an airplane without a parachute. If we believe that we should not touch a live wire, even if we cannot see the electricity coursing through it, then we will not place our hands on it. If we believe that the Ten Commandments and the Holy Days are in effect, then we will keep them. If we believe that God exists and His Son came to the earth and lived a perfect life, then we will follow every Word of God as well as the example that Jesus set. If we believe, then we will do!

This is all simpler said than done, but, the next time we hear the “same old message” (actually a *very* old message) regardless of where, when and how it is delivered, what are we going to do with it? Are we going to take on our responsibility as hearers and doers (James 1:22)?

How about putting all this to the test right now? Time is short and we need to be living by every Word of God.

With Christian love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wray Zehrung". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wray Zehrung