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Bob Bradley

End Times and Signs

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

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Mark 13:1-4

1 And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!

2 And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,

4 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?

These scriptures were taking place just a couple of days before Jesus was going to die. I hope we can understand some things here as we look at these scriptures, how important they were. Since Jesus was going to die just in a couple of days, maybe in 48 hours or so; if it was important enough to Him to tell these things to His disciples 48 hours before He was going to die, then they must be important. In saying that, also as we look down through this chapter tonight—maybe down to verse 13—but as you look at these verses you are going to see some signs here. We are going to talk about some signs tonight. Keep in mind that as we look at these signs, here is a Jewish Rabbi, Jesus being a Rabbi, being asked by Jewish men about events that were going to take place in a Jewish nation. Keep that in your mind as we read this. As we compare scripture with scripture then prophecy makes sense. When we do not do that then we get things confused. We try to prove things that scripture does not teach and we get all kinds of things being taught that is not truth. When you keep some of those things in mind, as you read Matthew 24 and 25, as you read Mark 13, and Luke 21; you also need to read the book of Daniel. Daniel has a lot of things to say about the same time frame that Jesus Christ is talking about.

The first four verses that I read to you, there were going to be some things that were going to happen. As we talked about the disciples here, they showed Jesus the temple. It was a beautiful place. I was reading something today that I never even knew about the temple. I knew the columns were beautiful there, but some of the columns that were there, if you read historians, said it would take four grown men to put their arms together to be able to get around just one of the columns that stood in front of the temple. It talked about the ivory and the marble that was there. It talked about the gold that was there and all the porches. So the temple was a beautiful place.

Jesus had been talking that He was going to die and that He was going to go away. He was going to be betrayed. I think the disciples probably had some questions on their mind and we know that they did. They said, “Jesus, just look around at this beautiful temple. Look around at the beautiful temple.” It

was beautiful on the outside, but on the inside it was like a grave. It was just full of dead men's bones. Do you know why? It was because the glory of God had departed from there a long time ago. This was because of the leaders that were there. They were teaching things contrary to the will of God. God no longer dwelt there.

It is said today to go to churches where God is no longer at. It is sad to say when you go there and you are asked to come and preach or whatever and you go in and it is deader than a hammer. You might say, "You shouldn't say things like that." Well, it is sad to see people that years ago used to be on fire for God and churches that used to be filled with the power of Almighty God. People used to testify about God's goodness, but today they are deader than a hammer. Do you know why? It is because somewhere along the line they have compromised the truth. Now God has moved out and He's moved on. That happens in churches but it also happens in people's lives too. When we compromise the truth, when we don't stand for the truth, and when we live wicked lives; then God moves out, folks. I don't care whether you like that or whether you don't. That is what happens. People become dead and they no longer have any spiritual life about them.

The disciples said, "Look at this building. How beautiful it is." It was beautiful. As we talked about there is not going to be one stone left upon another that is not going to be thrown down. We know that in some of the lifetime of some of these disciples that happened in 70 AD. Thirty or forty years after Jesus died the Romans came. We know that happened. We know that those things took place in a matter of a few short years.

As we look at verses 5 down through the rest of this chapter, we are going to be looking at the great tribulation, what the Bible calls it. Jesus calls it a great tribulation. In Jeremiah 30, he calls it the time of Jacob's trouble. In Zephaniah, it talks about a time of great indignation, a time of wrath, a time of fury; when you look at some of the other prophets. They talk about a horrible time that is going to happen here on planet earth. It is going to happen in the last days.

As we look, He gives us several signs here that are going to take place that we can look at and be able to understand some things about them.

Mark 13:5-13

5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:

6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.

8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.

9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

In verse four they actually ask Him three questions here if you look at Matthew.

Matthew 24

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Jesus is going to begin to answer them. The first thing He says is:

5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:

Now that is wonderful thought when you look at that. I never thought too much about that until I had been studying this the last several weeks. There was something today, when I looked at this today; it is something here how Jesus is telling these disciples not to be deceived. This happened 2000 years ago. Not to be deceived. As you look on down through here, He mentions about wars and rumors of wars. He mentions about pestilences, earthquakes, false Christ and so forth. He mentions all kinds of signs, but He also says, "Do not be deceived." Do not be deceived by these things.

As you look and see what He is talking about and some of the words that He used here. He is talking about do not let people, or do not let these signs deceive you. What that means is these. There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus knew what they were thinking. He knew exactly what was on their mind. Do you know what they thought? The questions here that they asked; they thought that the destruction of the temple, His returning, and the end of the age; they thought all these things were going to happen simultaneously. They thought when the temple was destroyed, and that when He returns to set up His kingdom that all these things was going to happen simultaneously. Jesus is going to give them some signs that are going to take place prior to His return, during the tribulation period, but He does not want them to take these signs and start setting dates with these signs.

We see that a lot. We see that a lot today. In my lifetime, I have seen people...

Back in the late 70's, there were all kinds of books written about why Jesus was going to return in 1981 or 1988. They were saying that there are all kinds of reasons and people bought into that. People were deceived by things that were written. Smart people, people who were very intelligent wrote all kinds of books and no doubt they made millions off of them. They convinced people that Israel become a state in 48 a generation is 40 years, so if you add 40 years to 1948 that makes 1988 and the last seven years of this thing is tribulation so Jesus has got to come in 1981. Many people bought into that. People were deceived by that. Do you know what happened? When 1988 come and gone and Jesus Christ did not come, do you know what happened? Many people just quit. Many people just quit going to church period. Not only did some preachers, I know, do that, but as I was thinking today there were a lot of folks sitting in the pews that have listened to these guys also quit. Do you know why? They quit because they were deceived into believing these signs, and what people taught them that Jesus was going to come on a certain particular date and since that did not happen, they just quit.

It happened right here at Campbell Chapel a few years in 2000. In 1999 when the big fear was on when the clock struck 2000 that all this was going to happen and it all was going to come to an end. We had people come here to this church. Do you know why? They were scared to death. They had been taught that there was going to be this big catastrophe when that comes. As soon as 2000 rolled around, do you know what happened to them? They did not come back anymore. We did not teach them that here. They had been taught that. They had read books they saw people on TV teaching them that. They were being deceived.

We do not need to be deceived today. We do not need to be deceived today by anybody. We can't set dates today. I don't know when Jesus is coming. You don't either. There is not a man upon planet earth that knows when Jesus Christ is going to return. We don't know. However, we can look at these signs and determine that we are living in the seasons that He is going to come. No. I don't know the day or the hour, but I know that Jesus Christ return is very soon. We understand that. When somebody tries to tell you that it is going to happen on this particular day or on that particular day; then you had better get away from that guy. You had better reach over there and turn him off because they are false teachers.

He says here "Take heed." Listen, watch and let nobody deceive you.

6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

We talked about that verse a little the week before last. When you read Revelation 6:1 and 2, we know that there is going to come a man on the scene very shortly. We don't know when. He's going to be a very flamboyant guy. No doubt, he is living well. He is doing fine. He is very healthy today on planet earth. We don't know where he is at, but no doubt he is doing very well. He's going to come on the scene very soon. He's going to be very flamboyant. He's going to seemingly have all the answers to all the problems. He's going to be deceiving people.

I thought about the leaders of our world, just today. Actually, we just backed up six months or a year. When we saw all the things that have happened in our political system, and how that people says "I am the answer. You elect me. I am the answer. I am the guy that is going to do these things." Politicians

always say that. Don't they? It doesn't matter what side of the fence you are on, they always say that. Politicians don't have the answer to man's problems. They may promise they do have, but politicians, even though they may say all kinds of things they do not have the answers to man's problems.

He says here, "Be not deceived."

6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ ; and shall deceive many.

Do you know what is happening today? Not only do we have a lot of people following a lot of politicians, but even in our world today, we have a lot of folks that are following false preachers, and people that are false. Even in our lifetime we could talk about a lot of folks that have followed false leaders and they have killed themselves or have been killed. We don't face much of that around here, but in this world that we live in there are many people proclaiming to be some kind of deliver.

You come and follow me. We are the only church going. That is what a lot of people say. Right in our community they teach that. If you don't belong to our church you are not going to heaven. That's a lie, my friend.

I would be scared to death to make that kind of a statement. They are trying to be God. They are not God. There is one God and He is sitting on the throne tonight. We had better be very careful who we are following. There are many people out there who are deceiving us. There are many people out there being deceived; following leaders, church leaders, politicians and world leaders. They people who are following them are being deceived. They are being deceived. They claim to be a deliver. They claim to be someone that is going to bring peace in Utopia. They bring the answers to all men's problems. But my friend, they are liars is all that they are. There is only one that can do that and He is sitting on the throne tonight. He is God.

6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ ; and shall deceive many.

Continue to remember that. Revelation 1 and 2 talks about the anti-christ coming.

Mark 13

7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.

Not only did He talk about many false christs or people that were going to be raised up and declare themselves to be leaders or some kind of deliver; He said don't be deceived. He also says here, "...ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars..." There has always been, since the time of Jesus Christ and even before that; there has always been false prophets. Even in the Old Testament there were all kinds of false prophets. We know that. There were people claiming to be something they were not. In the time of the New Testament we know that there were people claiming to be the Messiah, claiming to be some great person. If you read the book of Acts, you know that and understand that. Not only that but also as long as there has been planet earth, basically, there have been wars. There have been wars

between nations. There have been wars between families. There have been wars between countries. There have been wars. He is telling us something here that we need to see.

7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.

Do you know what He is telling us here? He is telling us that there is going to be wars. We hear a lot today about peace. We want to have peace. We talk about peace in the Middle East. We talk about peace between this nation and that nation. Until Jesus Christ returns at the end of tribulation, until He does that, there are going to be wars. There is going to be a time here on earth before long that there is not going to be any war. However, until Jesus Christ comes, the Prince of Peace comes at the end of tribulation to take control of planet earth then there is going to be war.

Do you know what is going to happen? Wars are going to intensify. There is going to be more of them. The destruction of the wars is going to get greater and greater. We are seeing that today. We are seeing that in this day that we are living in. I don't know when Jesus is coming in the rapture. I don't know when He is coming, but I know when I look at these things that it is going to be happening during the tribulation period. I can see these things developing today then we must know that His return in the air is very near. We are going to be gone before these things take place. We are seeing these things come about today. So we must know that His return is very near.

When you read Revelation 6, you will read about the wars that are going to be coming.

Revelation 6:3 and 4

3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

Do you know what happens? Do you know what the red horse represents? It represents blood or war. The anti-christ is going to come. He's the white horse in Revelation 6:1 and 2; that's him. That is not Christ. That is the anti-christ. In verses 3 and 4, we see world-wide war. World-wide war breaking out like we have never saw before. Friend, listen. There have been wars. World War I was bad. World War II was bad. The Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm and what is going on today in Iraq and Iran; they are bad. However, the war that is coming, you can take all these other wars and they won't compare, not even a little bit, in what is about to take place here on planet earth. The death and destruction that is going to take place here.

It is coming very soon folks. I don't know when. The reason that I am saying that is because we get wrapped up sometimes and we want to know about the end time events and it is interesting to talk about, but I want you to be ready when Jesus Christ comes in the air. If you don't know anything about the anti-christ, I don't care. I want you to know THE CHRIST, the Real Christ; that's what I want us to know. If we know Him then these other things are all good, great and fine. They are exciting to study

about. They are exciting to look at. But let's make sure we know who Jesus Christ really is. If we know that then it will be fine.

We get sidetracked on things sometimes. We look at some of these things. I love to study. I love to look at them. I love to take the pieces of this puzzle and put them all together. I love to do that. But it really does not matter. If you are not saved, it does not matter. You are going to be going through some times here that are going to be horrible. Let's teach people about the real Christ. We get that message out then we can teach people about the anti-christ.

He says there are going to be wars and rumors of wars. John the Revelator said there was going to be war. There is going to be a red horse that is going to come and he is going to take peace from the earth; not just from a portion of the earth, but to take peace from the whole earth.

Think about that just for a moment. Every place on planet earth there will be people fighting one another. You imagine that. Imagine how horrible that would be. Not only that, but also if we were shooting with guns or with bows and arrows, or throwing knives at one another that would be one thing. But some of the weapons we have today kills people but does not tear down buildings. It destroys human life but it does not affect buildings.

Do you know why? It is because we live in a world today where we think more about buildings than we do human life. We have weapons today that any part of your body that is water and the majority of our body is water; but do you know what it does? It reacts on water. You will basically burn your eyes out of their sockets while you are standing. There are weapons like that today. The scriptures talk about our eyes being consumed out of our head.

What I am trying to say is this; let's make sure that we are ready. Let's make sure that we are ready. That is what matters. I hope that we understand and again, I don't know how long we have here, but we don't have long left here. If you have any intentions here of repenting of your sin then you had better get it done. Friend listen.

Jesus Christ is coming and when He comes in the air and if you are listening to me tonight where ever you are at then it is too late for you. You are doomed. People are going to put it off one day too long.

A lot of folks used to have a great testimony for God, used to live for God, used to do all kinds of things and maybe still yet doing things, but yet living outside the will of God; then friend you are not going. You are not going to heaven living like that. We can't go to heaven living in sin.

Just because we are church members does not mean we are a Christian. Just because you have been baptized does not mean that you are a Christian. Just because you belong to this church or a church does not mean that you are a Christian. Let's make sure we know who Jesus Christ is.

There are going to be some horrible times coming on planet earth.

Not only that but also we are going to have wars and rumors of wars and wars are going to intensify. He says here that "...such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet."

7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.

8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.

When you look at “beginnings of sorrows” it means this in the original. It means the beginning of birth pains. Some of you women have had children. You know when your birth pains start. You know that when they start that it is not going to be too long till things are going to intensify. Not only that but you know that it is not going to be too long here that they are going to intensify and get worse and worse. After a while, things are going to be over.

That is what He is actually saying here. These things here; the wars, the rumors of wars, the famines, the pestilences, the earthquakes; all these things are just the beginning of sorrow. They are just the beginning of pain here that is going to take place. When you look at what is taking place here; verses 5 through 13 have to do with the first three and a half years of tribulation. He mentions here about the wars here. He talks about nations rising against nations. He also talks about the rumors of wars and the international disturbances and all of these things. When you read here, as we said a while ago, these things are going to take place. John mentioned that they were going to take place. It is something that it does not matter how many peace treaties we’ve signed. There is a war coming like we have never seen before. It is going to take place.

Not only that but when you read the last part of verse 8, we can read about natural disasters. This is what I really thought was really interesting today. Not necessarily today, or not only today, but as I looked at some of these things; He says here there is going to be earthquakes in divers places. A few years ago we had an earthquake out in the Indian Ocean. Do you remember that? It was when the tsunami hit. Do you remember? That was caused by an earthquake. If I remember correctly, one of the islands that this tsunami hit was the third largest island in the world and when this tsunami hit this island; it moved this entire island one hundred feet. You might say, “Well, what is the significance in that?” Here is the significance. A quarter million people died. Earthquakes cause famine. When you look over there where this earthquake and that’s just one earthquake. Not only that but also when you look at the geological people and if you looked at any reports at all in the last few years; do you know what they will tell you? I don’t remember the exact number. Earthquakes are becoming numerous more every year. Also, they are also growing in intensity more every year.

As you look at some of these things, it is awesome to look at. Look at Katrina that happened a few years ago. My understanding is that was the greatest natural disaster that ever hit America. I forget how many people died, and how many billions of dollars was destroyed. Then just a short time later there was one that hit Galveston, Texas and wiped it off the map. Another one hit sometime after that. We are seeing hurricanes, and earthquakes and we are seeing all these things take place. They always have been but they are growing in number and intensity. That is happening. It was not too long ago in one of the countries overseas that we had earthquakes. If you saw them, it was just building after building was

crumbled up because of the intensity of the earthquakes. There is one coming to this area. When you look at where we are living at here and look at the fault that runs through western Kentucky; there is one coming here. There is one that is going to hit here one of these days. Thank God we will probably be gone when that happens.

Friend listen. Just because we live in Ohio and Kentucky does not mean that we are immune from disaster. If we talked to some of the folks just in the last few days or yesterday when the tornadoes hit down in Tollesboro, Kentucky, the floods that hit in our own area in the last few nights and what we saw in northeastern Kentucky down in the coal fields with all the flooding down there—disasters are happening. How many times in your own life have you ever storms like we are having now? I've never seen that. I'm 55 years old and we are having storms now like I have never seen us have. Do you know why? They are getting more intense and they are getting closer together. We are having a whole lot more of them. Do you know why? It is because Jesus Christ is coming very soon.

I don't know when He is coming, but He is coming very soon.

He talks about the natural disasters, the earthquakes in divers' places. There shall be famines and troubles. Earthquakes and storms bring famine. It brings all kinds of pestilence. It brings disease. Do you know why? It is because of all the pollution that comes and the things these disasters bring. The water is polluted and all the folks that have died and lying around and all the other things that are there, and the chemicals that are there. It brings pestilence, it brings disease and it brings a lot of different things. Jesus spoke about these things 2000 years ago. It shouldn't alarm us that we are living today, 2000 years later and seeing these things intensify. It shouldn't alarm us at all.

9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

This happened after Jesus' time, in the apostles' time and in the early church. Do you remember how the apostles were beaten because they preached the gospel? They preached about Jesus Christ and Him being the Messiah. They were beaten and put in jail. They killed James and we know that that happened, just a few years after Jesus died. However, the day and time that we are living in now there is a great persecution against people living for Jesus Christ, people who claim His name, people who claim Him as being their Savior and living a dedicated life; people are being persecuted. We talked about this a few weeks ago. They put on their terrorist people that have been born again, evangelical people; they put them on their terrorist list. That is me and you. They added to the terrorist list people that had been in different wars, in the gulf war and the wars in Iraq. They put them on their terrorist list.

What I want us to understand is that we are being persecuted today. Not so much right here in this area, but Christian people worldwide are being persecuted because they love Jesus Christ and because they live for Him. If you live right, you live out here in this world, you live a holy, dedicated, consecrated life to God and there is going to be a whole bunch of people that are not going to like you. They are not going to be around you and they are going to do everything they can to get rid of you. You might say,

“Well, everybody loves me.” I hope you are not that stupid. I hope you don’t think that everybody loves you because everybody does not love you. You are not that lovable anyway. There are people that don’t like us. Our world that we live in today does not like us. Our government doesn’t like us. The leaders of our government don’t like us. That is a hard statement to say and the reason that I can say that is because the policies and the things they are trying to bring about proves to me that they don’t want us around. Everything that the Bible stands for, our politicians are standing against. It is sad but it is true.

10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

Let’s talk about that just for a moment. That does not mean the gospel of the grace of God must be preached unto all nations before the end comes. It does not say that. When you read Matthew, it says the “gospel of the kingdom.” The gospel of the kingdom is different than the gospel of the grace of God. We preach grace today. We preach Jesus Christ, being born again. We are saved by grace through faith that not of ourselves but it is a gift of God. John the Baptist came preaching “repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” The Messiah is about ready to come on the scene. During the tribulation period when you read Revelation 7 there is going to be 144,000 Jews that is going to be sealed. There will be 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of the children of Israel. They are going to go all over the world preaching the gospel of the kingdom, that the Messiah is about ready to come on the scene. That is what they are going to be preaching. That is what He is here talking about, not the gospel of the grace of God that we preach today. It does not have anything to do with that. It has to do with the gospel of the kingdom.

11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Do you know what He is telling these folks here? He is telling them that they are going to be brought before the rulers. They are going to be brought before kings. They are going to be questioned. All these things are going to happen to them. Even within 30 or 40 years from the time that Jesus died, we can see that happen. Not only that but when you read a little bit of history you can see how great this was. There was a time when some of the Romans and different ones, would take Christian people and tie them to a stake or a pole beside the road. Then they would pour some kind of flammable liquid on you and set you on fire just to light the path. That happened. Do you know why? It was because that people would not deny that Jesus Christ was their Lord. All they had to live was say that Caesar was king. That is all they had to do. Do you know what? There were people who would not do that.

If it takes our life, if my relationship with Jesus Christ does not mean more to me than my physical life, you need to find you a place to pray somewhere.

Friend listen. That may come to pass one of these days. We may get to see some of these things one of these days. We can see here how that these things that Jesus spoke about here came to pass even in the day or just a few short years after Jesus spoke these words; He said they were going to come to pass and they did.

Isn't it great? He said you don't need to sit around and try to premeditate what you are going to say or what is going to be your defense. You don't need to do all that. He says here that the Holy Ghost will give you all that you need to say in that hour. Isn't that great to know?

Even though our lives may be taken one day for our testimony of Jesus Christ; we don't have to sit around and wonder what we are going to do, what we are going to say or what we are going to tell people because the Lord will provide that which we need in that hour. Isn't that great to think about?

12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

First thing here is this. It talks about the enemy here that is going to be between families. He says here that "brothers are going to betray brothers to death..." He talks about "...fathers...sons...children..." and so forth. It talks about children and their parents. There is no doubt this has happened, but when you look at the things that are going to be happening during the tribulation period, we know that it is going to be greatly intensified.

Have you ever saw a time in your life when there is so much turmoil in families? I have never seen a time with children wanting to divorce their parents. You never heard that until 10 or 15 years ago. Several years ago, if a child would go to the court of law and say I want to divorce my parents; they would have locked him up somewhere. They would have put him in a rubber room somewhere. Actually, that is where he needed to be. I'm not saying that all of our parents have treated us right. I'm not saying that at all. I'm just saying that I have never saw a time when fathers are betraying children and children are betraying fathers and also brothers and sisters. That is a sign that Jesus Christ is coming very soon. That is something that we can look at. Do we know the day or the hour? No. Are we seeing these things intensify?

Years ago, family meant something. Years ago when I was a boy, we went and visited one another. We worked hard. We would eat our supper of the evening and if we did not have to work until dark; then we would go visit our families. Sundays was a holy day. We did not work on Sundays. Most people did not work on Sunday. Even though if they were not saved, most people did not work on Sunday. Do you know why? It is because family meant something. Time to visit meant something. Families got along. There were differences there, sure. For the most part, families got along. However that has changed in the last 20 years a lot. Families don't visit families now. You have families that live right side by side; they may wave at one another every now and then, but they don't stop and say how you doing. We don't have time anymore. We are too busy in a mess we got ourselves in and trying to get ourselves out of a mess.

That's where we are at in the society that we live in. Family does not mean anything anymore. People get married and divorced. God did not ordain that, but it is a fact of life today. There is something

wrong. When families don't mean anything to us anymore, it is a sign that Jesus Christ is coming very soon.

13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Hated. We know today, if you live for Jesus Christ today, if you just simply believe the Bible as the Word of God, if we believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, if we believe that we are sinners and that we cannot be reconciled unto a holy God except we have the blood of Jesus Christ then we are labeled as fanatics. The world hates us. All you have to do is turn on your TV set late at night and listen to some of the comedians. They will make fun of you. They will make a joke out of people who have been born again. Realistically, if you look at some of the people who get on TV and say that they have been born again; I understand why they do that.

Friend listen.

People are not going to like us. The majority of the folks are not going to like us. I would rather have a relationship with Jesus Christ and that I know my sins are forgiven and I know this very moment that I am ready to go to heaven than to have a whole county full of people that said they were my friends. Wouldn't you?

The great thing is that we may not have a lot of friends here on planet earth. However, when we get to heaven there are going to millions of them up there. They are all going to get there and be there the same way that we are going to get there. That is by believing that Jesus Christ is and was and always will be Lord. We are going to go there one day.

It was a big problem for me many years ago when the Lord was dealing with me about being saved; I had a big problem because of the crowd that I loafed with and where I went and what I did. I had a big problem with that. I thought if I quit this and get saved, I won't be able to go here and do this or that and that was true. Do you know what I did not understand? What I did not understand was—yes, that crowd is no longer around me. That crowd moved onto somebody else. However, now I have so many more friends, true friends today, than I ever had back then. People used you and when push came to shove; they were nowhere to be found. A true friend today is someone that will stick with you through thick or thin. When the chips are down, a true friend is someone that will stand beside of you, someone that will fight for you, someone that will defend you; that is what a true friend is.

I'm glad that we have a bunch of people like that here at Campbell Chapel that will defend the truth that stands for the truth and appreciates what Jesus Christ has done. We can count those people as friends. When you get saved, you find out how many friends you really do have. There are born again people from every nation. There are born again people from every walk of life, just about, not all but just about any place you go there are people who have been born again. There are people living for Jesus Christ.

Come—