



From the President's Desk -



What glorious days these days are before the coming of our King Jesus! If one was to stand on any street corner in our modern-day cities today and start speaking out the above statement, he would be called a nutter, sadly even by some in our Christian community. What has changed since Jesus last walked on the earth?

One might conclude not very much, the world was in a mess then and it's in a bigger mess now; mainly because there are more people sinning on earth now than there was before the day of Pentecost and the birthing of the New Testament Church as we know it, but what does the scripture say about the days in which we live?

In Matthew 24:3-14 my Bible has a heading "Signs of the end times and the end of the age" maybe this would be a good place for us to start our inquiries on this important subject. **Verse 4** and Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you; and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the entire world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

In this passage we are told three times by Jesus Himself; not to be deceived. What a warning for us in light of the uncertain days in which we live, with an unprecedented pandemic raging over all nations. Sickness and disease has been with us ever since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, but this is quite different.

I believe that this worldwide social tragedy has been brought about mainly by a well-organized fear campaign aimed at dividing families and communities, by striking fear into the hearts of an unsuspecting world population. Division and deception go together like a horse and carriage; turn on the radio or television and what do you get? Lies, lies and more lies; that is social conditioning of the first order just the same as Hitler and his bully boys used on the German and world population before the Second World War.

Sadly, these atrocities lay in the main at the door of our political elite, the same people we elected into office in what was once known as a democratic form of government **by the people for the people** which is

fast becoming a totalitarian regime; much like China's Communist Party and the way they conduct business. To be perfectly honest, both sides of the debate are as bad as each other when it comes to deception. Remember the statement of the anti-vaccine people about more people dying because of the vaccine within six months of receiving the jab; didn't happen!

No wonder people are losing heart in life and confidence in themselves, their governments, vaccines, and the unelected decision-making bureaucrats who orchestrate lockdowns, mask wearing and social distancing as the only way to protect us from the pandemic. I'm astonished that those power brokers who are pushing vaccines (if that's what they are) are not looking for medications that will help in the healing process, as we have been told are available, but not in this great free land of Australia.

I have written all the above, just to make one point; as Christians we need to know the truth. **John 8:31-32** *If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* My answer to the question "to take the vaccine or not" is, God has given each of us the freedom of choice, what we choose is between God and the individual, and for unity's sake we as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus will support your decision.

Before you take the vaccine, pray that when it enters your body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit that it does what you believe it's meant to do, no more no less and that it does you no harm and that you suffer no ill effects. On the other hand, if you choose not to take the jab, then pray that God keep you and your family safe, and that no evil pestilence will come near your dwelling place.

During this pandemic I have been quite confused with what I have seen and heard, but I thank God that He understands all my confusion and has given me sound instruction from His word which I haven't been able to share fully in one short article. However, next month I will write on more of what I have found in this scripture Matthew 24:

Blessing, keep safe.

Len.

"The will of
GOD
will never take
you to where
the grace of
God will not
protect you."

- Bernadette Devlin

faithit.com



Written by Bob & Debby Gass

DO THE RIGHT THING BY OTHERS

'Teach those who are rich...to do good.' 1 Timothy 6:17-18 NLT

Taskmasters don't come much tougher than Bob Thompson. For forty years he pushed his highway workers hard from April to December for six days a week, in order to finish the job before the first frost. Their loyalty, sweat and hard work helped make him a very rich man. Thompson remembered this and returned the favour. When he sold his company, Michigan's largest asphalt and paving business, he gave his 550 current and retired employees US\$128 million (about NZ\$178 million) from his gains. Even surviving spouses got cheques. About ninety employees became instant millionaires.

Thompson started the Thompson-McCully Company with US\$3,500 (about NZ\$4,900) his wife, Ellen, earned from substitute teaching. The first five years in business were challenging. Thompson didn't take a salary. So why later did he give away so much of his fortune? 'It was the right thing to do,' he said. 'You realise the people around you have gone through all the pain and suffering with you. I wanted to pay them back.' When the cheques were handed out, Thompson wasn't present. He said, 'I didn't want to be there because it gets too emotional.'

This man practised what the apostle Paul talked about: 'Teach those who are rich...to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others' (1 Timothy 6:17-18 NLT). Doing good isn't a moonlighting occupation, it's a full-time job. The person of character is guided by the North Star of goodness that leads him or her to ask in every situation, 'What's the right thing to do?' And the answer is always: 'Do the right thing by others.'



Annual General Meeting 2021

Our AGM will be held on 25 September 2021 by Zoom. Time and agenda will be forwarded to you shortly and a reminder that only financial members will be sent a link to this meeting.

A series of true stories compiled by John Wright – FGBMFI UK

The Archangel Raphael

The story of Hospital Chaplain Rev Mark Taylor

In October 2011 I had a stroke and was taken to hospital. There someone came to pray for me, drew back my curtain and turned pale, saying: "Do you know there is a golden angel over your bed with wings outstretched?"

I was unaware of this angelic presence but felt at peace. Eventually I was able to return to the pulpit to preach and to prophesy. Then in July 2018, I left Carleton Rode Baptist Church to be Chaplain at the same hospital where I had been a patient. Within a few days I had an experience which thrills me daily.

I was talking to a lady in the Chapel. Then the lady told me she could see an angel behind me and that his name was Raphael. I noticed a peace come over her but saw no angel myself.

Later that morning I prayed for someone in distress, asking for wisdom as I took the patient's hand. I was aware of a peace coming over the patient as the conversation turned from death to life. Then the patient told me how comforted they were by the presence of the "man" who came with me. I said I had come alone, but the patient was adamant that there was someone else with me who had introduced himself as Raphael.

I began to wonder what was happening! Later I was called to another patient, a Christian. As I approached his bed he exclaimed "How wonderful that you've come, and two of you at that!" The patient then told me with complete confidence that the one with me had introduced himself as Raphael!

Later I read in the Book of Enoch that God had set 4 Archangels to watch over the Earth. One was Raphael, who was to attend to the afflictions of man. Had I walked with Archangel Raphael for a day? As hospital chaplain I am now convinced that our hospital wards and corridors are places where the angels of God are ministering to the souls and bodies of men.



Prophetic word to the fellowship – Giel Smith 24.07.21

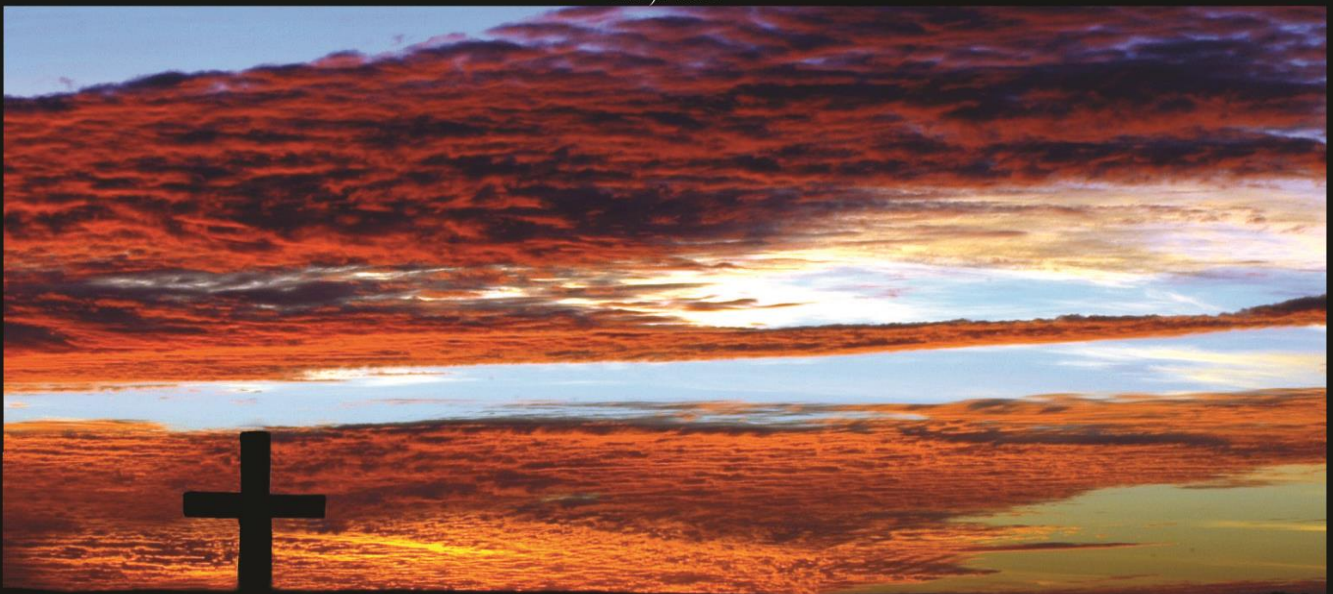
For this is the beginning of new things says the Lord. This is the beginning of a refreshing that I'm bringing says the Spirit of the Lord. For know that as a tree has withered but yet I've come and brought life to that tree, so new juices will flow though the veins of this tree that I'm establishing again says the Lord. For surely, I am coming in with my Spirit and I'm coming in and I'm refreshing, I'm rebuilding, I'm refocusing you says the Lord. For surely My plan and My purpose will stand because it has stood from the beginning.

Therefore, know that I am with you, therefore know that I will guide you and know that I'm not only coming to refresh you, but I will come, and I will replenish the years that the locust have stolen. There are many that have fallen away in this organization, there are many that have moved away but the Lord says I am bringing new blood, I am bringing in young men, young men on fire for my Son Jesus Christ and I will move in and through them and I will rebuild that which the enemy came in and stolen. I will replenish, I will restore the years that the locust have stolen.

But know the work is not done yet. The work is not done yet and yes, this end time revival, you will be part of it. You will be established in this end time revival and see many come to Christ. For surely My heart is for souls and your heart is for souls. Therefore, I will come and fill you to overflowing. I will fill you to overflowing with fresh fire and yes many of you have thought it's time to hand over the reins but not yet says the Lord. Not yet. You still have purpose; I still have purpose for you says the Lord.



Stewys Views



O B E D I E N C E

For as by one mans disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Romans 5:19

**INTERNATIONAL
Our Mission**

FGBMFI is one of the largest Christian business organizations in the world. Founded in 1953, we are in 142 nations - meeting in over 7,000 chapters. Our members and leaders include every race, culture, social status, and language.

By God's grace, we connect people with opportunities to reach out and help others find a better life and work together to build better communities.

We do this by:

Calling people back to God...

There is a better life by following Jesus Christ.

Promoting integrity and good character...

Being a reflection of God to our world.

Participating in God's good work...

Releasing gifts, talents, and resources to help others.

Working together to build better cities & nations...

Impacting our leaders and our culture.

Taking the message of God's love to every family...

A true grass roots effort that is changing the world.

"The mandate from God is that we break the chains of despair in the world. Our mandate is to destroy the isolation of loneliness and link the world to God!"

Demos Shakarian, Founder



"It is our destiny to lift up God in every business center, every marketplace, every government center and university... every nation, city, town and crossroads of the world. People of faith, shining with God's glory, bringing the uplifting message of God's power... reaching out, helping, encouraging and lifting. Today, through our efforts, we believe that over 2 million people come to God each year."



International President Mario Garcia



My Name Was on a Federal Most-Wanted List - By Richard D. Mangone

I burned through most of the cash in a year of partying, gambling, playing the stock market, and traveling around with girlfriends. I pawned my gold Rolex watch, worth \$16,000, for \$5,000, which I lost at the craps table in a Mississippi casino. When the money stream began drying up, suicide surfaced as the only remaining option. Still, seeing a steady girlfriend but living alone in a dreary motel room, I decided I would kill myself by guzzling a bottle of wine, falling asleep, and piping carbon monoxide gas into my sealed SUV.

I felt trapped like a roach in a corner. One evening, I duct-taped plastic tubing from the exhaust pipe and into the rear of the vehicle, aiming at a painless death the next morning. Yet while surfing TV channels that night, I paused on an evangelist preaching about Jesus on the cross. Placing my hands on the TV set and crying, I asked Jesus to forgive me for all my sins and receive me as his child. It sounds like a cliché, but I felt a great weight lifting from my shoulders.

Since I had never been interested in religion before, I was unfamiliar with Scripture. Wanting to know more, I drove to a Christian bookstore and bought a Bible and Christian teaching tapes. For several months I devoured the Bible while hiding out in a trailer in Tennessee's hill country. But I could not rouse the willpower to surrender. I even visited my wife and daughter in Boston, poised to turn myself in to the U.S. attorney in the federal court building. It didn't happen. Returning to Tennessee, I ditched my girlfriend and moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky—where, out of desperation, I confessed my fugitive status to a Catholic priest. He called four law enforcement agencies before convincing the authorities that I was a felon ready to surrender. An FBI agent arrived hours later at the church and took me into custody.

In November 1995, I entered the federal prison in Ray Brook, handcuffed and escorted by U.S. Marshals. I was 51 years old. I quickly connected with the prison chaplain and told him how I had come to Christ before surrendering. The first day in the chapel felt like being in a sanctuary. The chaplain mentored me and introduced me to discipleship courses that gave a solid foundation for my faith and encouraged me to share it with other inmates.

Soon after arriving, a fellow inmate blessed me with a new leather-bound Bible, donated by a local church with a prison ministry. I immersed myself in the task of studying Scripture, attending every chapel service, and memorizing 2,000 verses. In total I completed 39 prison-ministry courses. The prison became a sort of monastery to me. I told various "cellies" (cell-mates) that I was in perfect solitude while cloistered and studying.

My faith strengthened slowly because the Lord needed to get rid of the junk inside me. I still had issues with covetousness from my past and with fully trusting the Lord. Case in point: My wife became very ill, and my daughter needed to sell her home. The thought of claiming some of the potential selling price of \$350,000 for a nest egg tempted me. Meanwhile, fellow inmates would badger me to reveal details about getting phony IDs, money laundering, and hiding money in overseas accounts. After serving 15 years, I was still not ready to go home. I needed more counselling sessions with the chaplain. But whenever I meditated on Isaiah 51:14 ("The cowering prisoners will soon be set free; they will not die in their dungeon, nor will they lack bread"), I felt my spirit lift. God's Word gave me hope that I would not end up dying behind bars. Trying to live the Christian life in prison is a life-and-death adventure.*Continued*



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