

## **“How Then, Will We Live?”**

**Following thru... Pre-Easter series;** unlocking our potential for the times we are living in! *Demographics changing radically/NOW!* Influx brings change in environment! *Core changes ahead for our nation!* S.D., Georgia, N.C. caved/business heat! Political races/three ring circus! *Terror-filled times!* The crucifixion of the priest on Easter Sunday. The three beheadings. Brussels. Lahore. Hilla. Iskandariya. Palmyra.

**A flood of hatred and stress!**

**Following thru... Easter message!** Knowing that Jesus descended into Hades, the all-holding place to set us free... Must ask ourselves, How we will live? Serving the world in love? Praying thru the hard times of life? Giving forgiveness without satisfaction? Obeying despite the suffering? Carrying the burdens of those weaker? *Fulfilling the mission so others may live?*

**Knowing the sacrifice made, the price paid, the message delivered, the freedom gained, the partnership granted... How Then Will We Live?**

**A Biblical Question...**

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what kind of persons ought you be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hastening 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?” **2Pet 3.11,12 KJV**

“Seeing that everything we see will be dissolved, *what manner of person should you be* in holy lifestyle and devotion to God while looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, which will dissolve the heavens with fire and melt the elements of the earth with fervent heat?” **2Pet 3.11,12 Plain English**

**Unpacking... Lit:** “Seeing then that all these things are being dissolved...” The *forces* bringing about the end are *already* at work... The *activity and certainty* has begun... **Knowing the clock is ticking, “what manner of... literally: “what country, locality, should we display...?”** “We are strangers and sojourners here, citizens of another country!” **Heb 11.13ff “As foreign ambassadors what kind of people should we be...?”** Original, essential and continuous “being...” “**in all aspects and forms of sacred behavior and devotion?**” *Holy conduct:* the conduct of those who *are set apart for service to God...* Priests... *Devotion:* the life we have based on our relationship with God... A sense of love, dependence, reverence, desire for His blessing, knowledge and fulfillment of His will for us! **How Then Will We Live?**

**The Elephant...** When you ask that question it seems like the answer is, “keeping rules!” Not really big on rules! **Rules are for faithless and unsaved...** “the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers, for whoremongers, sexual sinners, for enslavers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine...” **1Tim.9ff For babies and kids...** “the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ to be justified by faith... and as long as we are children we are under tutors (laws)...” **Gal 3.24-4.3** But just like kids grow up into adults, go to work, become productive... So... we move up the ladder! **For religious legalists, “hypocrites...”** “Woe to you... you bind heavy burdens on others but not yourselves... you shut up heaven and keep men from entering in... you make pretense of holiness... foolish... blind... you clean the outside but inside you are unclean...” **MULT How Then Will We Live?**

**It’s a bona fide request for observation... course adjustment... and further pursuit!**

**Compendium...** “not as the scoffers and profane sinners *who put the day of the Lord far from them*, but as men, who have their loins girt, and their lights burning, waiting for the Lord’s coming; being continually exercised in grace and in the discharge of their sacred duties, watching, praying, hearing, reading; living soberly, righteously, and godly; guarding against intemperance and worldly mindedness,

and every worldly and hurtful lusts.”

**Holy Lifestyles... We want to see behavior modification... but not as the result of rules... *As the result of maturity, faithfulness and fruitfulness!*** “He is the Vine and we are the branches, the one who lives in Me and Me in him brings forth much fruit!” **John 15.5** “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance – AGAINST SUCH *THERE IS NO LAW!*” **Gal 5.22** “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth!” **2Tim 3.15** “Strong meat belongs to the maturing... those who have their senses exercised to discern between good and evil!” **Heb 5.14** “If you will be led by the Spirit you will not be under the law...” **Gal 5.18** “All the law is fulfilled in this: you will love your neighbor as yourself!” **Gal 5.14** “Love works no ill to his neighbor: it is the fulfillment of the law.” **Rom 13.10** “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...” **James 4.8** For the 527's and 610's and multiple times every day...that He speaks! Drawing near to God, learning to listen, not being willing to just “operate on our own any longer.” “Being mimics of God as dear Children, walking in love as Jesus did, giving Himself for us as a sweet smelling sacrifice! **Eph 5.1,2**

**Devotion... “Selfless” affection and dedication to Him for who He is and for what He did!** Single-mindedness, love, loyalty, respect, piety and worship that is due... The Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world! Great Physician who heals all our disease! The Commander of the Hosts of Heaven! The Destroyer of the Works of the Enemy! The One and Only True God! **How Then Will We Live?**

**How? *Serving the world in love?*** “Happy are you if you know and do this! I have given you an example of what to do. The servant is not greater than his Lord!” **John 13.15-17** And the greatest of you will be servant to all!” **Mt23.11**

***Praying thru the hard times of life?*** “Not murmuring... that you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world...” **Phil 2.14ff**

***Giving forgiveness without satisfaction?*** “if you do not forgive (from the heart... **Mt 18.35**), neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses...” **Mk 11.26**

***Obedying despite the suffering?*** “found in fashion *as a man*, he humbled himself, and *became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross*. Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name...” **Phil 2.8,9**

***Carrying the burdens of those weaker?*** “if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” **Gal 6.1,2** “Look not only on your own things, but every man also on the things of others... Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus... (who served) **Phil 2.4,5**

***Fulfilling the mission so others may live?*** “Whoever believes in Jesus will not be ashamed... for whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved... but how will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in the One whom they have not heard of? And how will they hear without a proclaimer?” **Romans 10.11-14** The “fulfilling” happens personally and by extension! “And how will they preach if they are not sent?” **v15**

***Drawing near to God and doing everything He says!*** “For our meat is to do the will of the One who sent us, and to finish it!” **John 4.34** So, “in whatsoever you do in word or deeds, do it all in the name of the **LORD**, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him! And whatsoever you do, do it with your heart as

unto the Lord and not unto men, knowing that it's of the Lord that you will receive the reward of the inheritance for you serve the Lord Christ!" **Col 3.17-24**

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