

Majoring on the Majors!
Part 2: *Fresh Perspective on These Times!*
Slide Notations

Thought we would be moving to the second step in drawing near to God for intimacy – “separation!” Should make us glad we don’t do this by “thot’s” but by the leading we get in intimacy!

Left off... Drawing near to God for the perfecting; to grow us up, to bring us to maturity, to come of age! Paul made it! Could see himself like God sees and not be depressed but freed! **R7** John made it! Could be in midst of dire circumstances/worship unhindered! **Rv1** Peter made it! Sifted for purification, partnership and counting it “joy!” **1P4**

What about us? What do we need to know about ourselves personally? (Huh Paul?) What do we need to be doing in trying times like these? (Tell us John!) How will we respond to our sifting and the demise of our “way of life?” (Pete) How will we face the times we live in? **Drawing near/God for “perfecting!”**

Don’t we need that same “growing up” for the times we are living in? Life in America may get very tough... and we need to remember... God is not an American and not here to preserve the American Way!

The American Way... Is no longer the way He prescribed to our forefathers! Is now our idea of living, liberty from God, to pursue self-defined happiness, guided by truth relative to our situations! Now requires “visions” of the creation not the Creator... A setting up “rewards” as hash marks of success in our pursuit!

But God will preserve any American, any human, who will acknowledge His Ways!

Times we live in... An unresponsive political system that no longer hears the cries of constituents... Incapable of fathoming the One who sets up thrones **Col 1.16** times like this! **R13.4** “Woe to those who turn away and take counsel together, but not of Me...” **Is30.1** “Professing to be wise **R1.22** they rage and imagine vain things!” **v28**

Just like Israel of old, God’s people are being captured and carried away into – and by – counter-culture!

Times we live in... A revisionist education system that no longer builds strong children/citizens... “He who controls history controls the future!” Orwell, 1984 History of our nation being revised as we speak! Changes/March – Adoption/May. Texas State BOE: religious/patriotic exclusions; “American” w/global citizen. Children in our schools receiving revised moral information/situational ethics!

GLSEN Diversity Training for teens: “We’ll Be Right Out” Exercise for students: “Is it moral? You decide!” “An act is morally right if and only if it follows the ten commandments...” the 10 commandments are the “word of God.” If the 10c are the “word of God” then it is morally acceptable for the unattached gay man to sleep w/a married-to-female closeted man. [story of Peter, Luis and Heather] Reason: there is nothing in the 10c that says, “Do not covet thy neighbor’s husband” therefore it is morally acceptable for the gay man...

FRC.org: 3rd & 4th graders barely know what sex is, let alone have any desire to try it. Unfortunately, that's exactly what the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is advocating in a new

report, "Stand and Deliver." As part of the global push, IPPF "demands" that children 10 and older have access to "comprehensive sex education" that defines sexuality as a "positive force for change and development, as a source of pleasure, an embodiment of human rights and an expression of self."

Times we live in... An irreparable economic climate entangled by insurmountable debt, confused by dishonest rhetoric! Who do we believe? MSNBC? "Retail sales rise on broad consumer buying..." "but consumer confidence falls in early February" NW? "Why we aren't doing so badly..." Animation worth 10,000 words! [Animated national map/unemployment rates] #1 Indicator of economic health

Times we live in... A devolving religious system fueled by moral breakdown/secular compromise/ self-imposed blindness! 1st century Christians would think we are living in the great end times apostasy! So few voices shouting out/truth! Too many believers don't want to see what's going on outside because it makes them disbelieve!

Signs of times... Political debauchers... scuttling the ship! Educational upheaval... producing weak minds/morals – convictionless citizens! Economic meltdown... affecting globe! Wars w/meaningless ends! **Ez38/Rv20 (Ex: Iran won't be defeated... Major End Times Player!)** Religious unraveling... paving the way for man of sin, son of perdition! **2Th2.3**

Too many believers see the signs of the times... and respond to them with fear! Forget that our faith was given to us for times just like these... Forget that the Word was given to us to prepare for and prosper in times just like these! Forget that end times prophecy is the blessed hope of Jesus returning!

Signs of the times... Require that we draw near to God and let Him forge our faith... Knowing who we are and how "self" preserving we can become... To know that our trials should enable our worship and enhance joy... Require that we develop a laser like focus on the eternal realities at hand...

America is 2½ Steps in... Demoralization! Taking away moral fabric! Discourage hold-outs from speaking up! (Done & continuing!) **Destabilization! (w/infiltration!)** Financial/political/religious! (Done & continuing!) **Precipitate Crisis!** Recession/depression/bankruptcy (Coming!) ... **New-norm(alization)!** **Globalization!** (Coming!)

Not doom and gloom... Unless your life and heart are tied to this world order! **1J2.17** "passing away (1C7.31), don't die with it!" The signs of the end times signal the fulfillment of the promises of God to His Church! **Lk 21.28** Tell us where we are, what kind of people we must be, what has to be done!

Our Father... Has ordained us for the times we are living in, anointed us for the things we are living thru! Nothing is more than we can handle! "If we face it we can ace it!" In His presence, He comforts, encourages and strengthens us for the day!

So here we are... Majoring on the Major-General of the Majors... intimacy with God... Presenting ourselves to the One who perfects us, matures us, brings us of age... "ages" our perceptions! Learning more about ourselves, coming to bow before Him regardless of circumstances, being sifted, purified...!