

Howards Corner

Perspective

In today's world it is important to keep one's perspective because things are changing rapidly. We are hopefully coming out of a year where the whole world has come to almost a complete shutdown. This pandemic (worldwide) was a surprise last year when it started. We have had various flu and virus events over the last few years but this one caught us flatfooted. We hopefully have come close to the Covid19 being under control by a rapid development of a vaccine and now a rapid program of vaccinations.

Last year in the middle of this pandemic many were dying, and hospitals were filled. We did not see an answer and did not have a weapon to deal with it. Fear and all kind of irrational behavior occurred. That has slowly faded but it identified flaws in this nation. People took sides with little understanding for the other side. Political and racial issues took center stage. Severe stress causes any defects to come to the surface.

We tend to look at the recent events as much more real because they are closest to us and therefore seem more important than past events. These kinds of events are not new because in the last 100 years we have been in a changing environment. You can look back over these years and see that we started the 1900's with many changing events. We had a World War I and a pandemic of Spanish flu. After the war there were major changes to the world's structure. The Ottoman empire was removed from the world stage and Britain took over the lands that are Palestine. After that in the USA we had a severe market crash which led to a major economic depression with over 25 percent unemployment.

After the depression World War II happened and the world was changed again. Many national boundaries were changed. The nation of Israel was established in 1948. We also had a major battle with polio. Then quickly we had the Korean war. Then in the 60/70's we were in a bitter war in Vietnam. On 9-11 we had the unthinkable the USA was attacked on our soil and the towers came down. These events are forever coming upon us at a much greater intensity and frequency.

We are told by Jesus in Matthew 24/25 that there would be wars and pestilence and earthquakes and such things but that they were not the end of the age, which is the second coming of Jesus Christ. These things will however be like “Birth Pangs”. Birth pangs start out mild but grow over time stronger and more frequently. We for sure are seeing many of these things coming more frequently and with greater intensity. If you are wise, you will look closely at the “times” we are in.

Israel is now back in their land and know that Israel is God’s time clock for the end of the age. There is a final 7 years prophesied for Israel before the coming of Christ. This time will be a “great tribulation” like has never been before nor will ever be again. We are clocking down to that time.

The final stage of the church has also started sometime around 1900. We as a church are also to see troubling times over the coming years and many will turn from the faith and love will grow cold. Are we seeing some of these birth pangs happening today in the church? The true church of Jesus Christ will not however see the tribulation that is to fall upon Israel. The church will be raptured (caught up) before that time to be with the Lord.

Have the proper Perspective.

Therefore, it is important for all that are in Christ Jesus to remember that if we have difficulties and trial over the coming years, we are told to not live-in fear and worry but in faith and hope and in the eternal life we have been promised. We should comfort one another so we can have peace in the middle of trials. Your perspective in the middle of these difficult times is to keep your eyes on Jesus and eternity.

Those that are not sure they are anchored in Christ however should seek fervently that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit. Remember the 10 virgin’s parable some were ready and came into the marriage super with Christ but the ones who did not have oil for their lamps were left outside.

Be always on guard and be expecting Christ’s return at any time!

May Love, Peace and Joy and an overflowing of the Holy Spirit be in each of you.

Howard