

“Signs of the Time”

Luke 17:20-30; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; Romans 1

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- My long time interest in weather forecasting
- We have the ability to forecast the weather but not the *“signs of the times”*
 - Matthew 16:2-3-- *“When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red;’ and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.”*
- Review of the signs of world events which signal the beginning of the labor pains of Matthew 24.

“Signs of the Time” — Moral Conditions — Luke 17:20-30

- Luke 17:20-30-- *“Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered and said, ‘The kingdom does not come with observation; nor will they say, “See here!” or “See there!” For indeed the kingdom of God is within you.’ Then He said to His disciples, ‘The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, “Look here!” or “Look there!” Do not go after them or follow them. For as the lightning flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will also be in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered to ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”*

A. Evil or Rotten to the Core

1. God’s assessment of the human race before the flood
 - Genesis 6:5-- *“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*
2. What society will look like when it has lost its moral compass.
 - 2 Timothy 3:1-9 -- *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captive gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.”*
- a. Meaning of the *“last days”*
 - 1) General Sense: *“Last Days”* refers to the period of time between Christ’s two advents.
 - 2) Technical Sense:
 - a) For Israel, the *“last days”* or *“latter days”* refers to the three and one-half years of the second half of the tribulation period prior to the second coming of Christ.
 - b) For the Church, the *“last days”* refers to the period of time immediately preceding the rapture of the Church.

- 2) Laundry list of moral characteristics of the “last days”
 - "Lovers of themselves
 - Lovers of money
 - Boasters and proud:
 - blasphemers
 - disobedient to parents
 - unthankful
 - unholy
 - unloving or without natural affection
 - unforgiving
 - slanderers or false accusers
 - without self-control
 - brutal
 - despisers of those who are good
 - Traitors
 - headstrong
 - haughty or high-minded
 - lovers of pleasure rather than loving God
 - have a form of godliness but deny the power of Jesus Christ!

B. Sexual Perversion

1. As noted in the days of Noah and Lot
 - a. In Noah’s day, the perversion of angels or “sons of God” cohabiting with women and creating a superhuman race.
 - Genesis 6:1-4 -- *“when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.”*
 - Jude 6 -- *“the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”*
 - b. In Lot’s day, the pervasiveness of homosexuality in Sodom
2. The downward moral spiral of society as noted by Paul in Romans 1
 - a. Suppression of the truth by factoring God out of the picture.
 - Romans 1:18-23 -- *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image like corruptible man —and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things.”*
 - b. With God removed, this leads to sexual promiscuity
 - Romans 1:24-25 -- *“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchange the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*

- c. Sexual promiscuity leads to homosexual promiscuity
 - Romans 1:26-27 -- *“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”*
 - d. All of this leads ultimately to the disintegration of society
 - Romans 1:28 -- , *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.”*
3. *Morality in American today? Where are we on the moral, downward spiral?*

C. Indifference to Impending Judgment

- Luke 17:26-30 -- *“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so it will be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”*

Our Response to the Moral Climate of our Day

A. We need to LIMIT our exposure lest we experience spiritual erosion.

1. Case in point: Lot
 - 2 Peter 2:7-8 -- *“who oppressed his soul by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day, seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)”*
2. The process of “spiritual erosion”

B. We need to be LIGHTS by our lives matching our lips.

- Philippians 2:15-16 -- *“become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”*