

LAST DAYS--Jesus is Coming Again! By Pastor Robby Bradford

(Acts 1:9-11) After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same **Jesus**, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back in the same way** you have seen him go into heaven."

(Luke 21:25-28) "There will be **signs** in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, **nations will be in anguish** and perplexity at the **roaring and tossing of the sea**. People will faint from **terror**, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the **heavenly bodies** will be shaken. At that time they will see the **Son of Man coming in a cloud** with power and great glory. **When these things begin to take place**, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

✓ Jesus' return encourages us.

(1 Thessalonians 4:15-18) According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, **and the dead in Christ will rise first**. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore **encourage** one another with these words.

✓ Jesus' return prepares us.

(1 Thessalonians 5:1-4) Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should **surprise** you like a **thief**.

✓ Jesus' return grounds us.

(1 Thessalonians 5:5-6) You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be **awake** and **sober**.

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN IT MAKE?

(Matthew 24:37-44 NLT) "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was

going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. Two men will be working together in the field; **one will be taken, the other left**. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; **one will be taken, the other left**. So you, too, must **keep watch**! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would **keep watch** and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must **be ready all the time**, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."

1. Focus on eternity.

(1 Peter 4:7) **The end** of all things is **near**. Therefore be **alert** and of **sober mind** so that you may **pray**.

(Philippians 3:18-21) For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are **eagerly waiting** for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which **he will bring everything under his control**.

2. Prioritize people and relationships.

(1 Peter 4:8-9) **Above all, love** each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

3. Make a difference for others.

(1 Peter 4:10-11) Each one should **use whatever gift** he has received **to serve others**, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. **To him** be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

4. Grow deep roots in God's grace.

(2 Peter 3:11-15, 17-18) Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation...Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned,

be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

(Isaiah 55:6-7) Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.