

LAST DAYS: Now What?
By Pastor Robby Bradford

- ✓ The last days are marked by hard times.

(Matthew 24:3-14) As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of **wars and rumors of wars**, but see to it that you are **not alarmed**. Such things must happen, but **the end is still to come**. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be **famines** and **earthquakes** in various places. All these are **the beginning** of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time **many will turn away from the faith** and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the **increase of wickedness**, the **love of most will grow cold**, but **the one who stands firm to the end** will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **then the end will come.**”

- ✓ People will grow increasingly immoral.

(2 Timothy 3:1-5) But mark this: There will be **terrible** times in the last days. People will be **lovers of themselves**, lovers of **money**, **boastful**, **proud**, **abusive**, **disobedient** to their parents, **ungrateful**, **unholy**, **without love**, **unforgiving**, **slandering**, **without self-control**, **brutal**, **not lovers of the good**, **treacherous**, **rash**, **conceited**, **lovers of pleasure** rather than lovers of God— having a **form of godliness but denying its power**. Have nothing to do with such people.

- ✓ God is waiting until the completion of His plan to return.

(2 Peter 3:8-10) But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is **patient** with you, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

How Do We Live In These Times?

1. Recognize significance of every day.

(Ephesians 5:15-16) Be very careful, then, **how you live**--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every **opportunity**, because **the days are evil**.

2. Share the unconditional love of Jesus.

(John 13:34) "A new command I give you: **Love one another**. **As I have loved you**, so you must **love one another**."

3. Be busy with God's priorities.

(2 Peter 3:11-13) 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.

BOTTOM LINE: We can survive our times, or we can steward our times. What will you do?