

Rejecting the Warning

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**BIG BEND
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For Discussion: Pride And Moral Independence: Why The World Is Not Heeding The Warning Of God's Wrath (harbingersdaily.com; June 1, 2024, Dean Dwyer)

<https://harbingersdaily.com/pride-and-moral-independence-why-the-unsaved-world-not-heeding-the-warning-of-gods-wrath/>

What indications are there that we are close to TEOTWAWKI (the end of the world as we know it)?

- Israel back in the land
- Israel hated by the nations
- Alignment of Ezekiel 38 nations
- Technology in place for mark of the Beast
- Globalism a top priority among the nations
- Antichrist spirit in the culture
- Apostasy in the church
- Stage setting for worldwide famine birth pangs
- Increasing natural disasters
- Lawlessness in cities
- Inflation & economy of life support
- The fullness of time (6,000 years)

If we are close to The End Of The World As We Know It, why doesn't God make it more obvious?

He has provided plenty of warning in His Word. Those with a biblical worldview will recognize where we are in history. Those that do not will be caught by surprise. It is similar to when Jesus came the first time...

Matthew 16:1-4 – *Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. ² He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; ³ 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. ⁴ A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."*

The religious people of Jesus' day willfully did not know God's Word so they missed the Messiah. Likewise, people today do not know God's Word so they are oblivious to the return of the Messiah and God's coming judgment.

Related to people being oblivious to God's Word... Why did Jesus speak in parables?

Jesus directly answered this question when His disciples asked it...

Matthew 13:11-15 – *"Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given... ¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; ¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'*

Of course, the ultimate warning of God's wrath is very personal: eternal separation from God for rejecting His provision for salvation.

Isn't this harsh, doesn't God want people to hear Him and be saved?

Most of what God has revealed to us in His Word is for the spiritually discerning... those who have the presence of the Holy Spirit by virtue of being a child of God, a believer in Jesus Christ. That relationship comes first, understanding the deeper things of God's Word follows that...

1 Corinthians 2:14 – *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

God does not deliberately make sinners blind, deaf, and hard-hearted; but the more that people resist God's truth, the less able they are to receive God's truth.

What portion of humanity will be saved to spend eternity with the Lord?

According to Jesus, it will be few...

Matthew 7:13-14 – *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and confined is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

Why wouldn't God make it possible for more people to be saved?

Jesus made it possible for all people to be saved. But only those who respond to God's provision for salvation by believing Him will be saved. God loves us so much that He wants us to experience the depth of love that is only possible if we are free to choose a relationship with Him...

Romans 1:16 – *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

Why don't more people embrace God's provision for salvation?

- they do not believe they are inherently bad
- they want moral independence from God
- they arrogantly proclaim that God doesn't exist
- they don't believe God cares about wickedness
- they don't believe God is watching

Why do people consider themselves to be good enough to get into heaven?

They are measuring themselves against others who are worse. The true indicator is to measure yourself against those who are better. And we know there is none better than the God-Man, Jesus Christ. And when we measure ourselves against Him, there is none good – not even one.

Romans 3:23 – *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

What can you say to someone that considers them good enough to go to heaven?

The truth:

Ephesians 2:8-9 – *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

What is at the heart of wanting moral independence from God?

They refuse to bend the knee to God and accept His authority over their lives.

Psalm 10:4 – *The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.*

It is trendy in our culture today for people to boast about their sins. Such flaunting of their sin is all in the name of pride and moral independence.

Proverbs 16:5 – *Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; though they join forces, none will go unpunished.*

Why do people persist in believing that God doesn't exist?

They have bought into the lie of evolution, a latter-day doctrine of demons. The theory of evolution is attractive because if there is no Creator-God, they are free to be their own arbiter of morality. They are then free to live their life free from any accountability.

- Similarly, people can acknowledge a Creator but embrace the theology of deism which makes God impersonal and thus doesn't care what people believes or does not believe.

What error do people make in thinking God is not watching what they do?

That He is impersonal and not omniscient... but they are denying reality; they rationalize...

Psalm 10:8-11 – *He sits in the lurking places of the villages; in the secret places he murders the innocent; his eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless. He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den; he lies in wait to catch the poor; he catches the poor when he draws him into his net. So he crouches, he lies low, that the helpless may fall by his strength. He has said in his heart, 'God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see.'*

It is a sad fact of this age that the wicked do not believe God records their sin and will judge them for it.

Why don't more people believe God's revelation in His Word?

They really don't want God in their life... if they persist in this perspective, they will get the desires of their heart and be separated from Him in eternity.

- Mark Twain once said: "Some people are troubled by the things in the Bible they can't understand. The things that trouble me are the things I can understand."

What is very plain from the Bible is that there are two choices... You can accept Christ as your Savior or you can reject Christ as your Savior. God has given everybody free will and you are well within your rights to freely choose either path.

- As C S Lewis famously said, "There are two kinds of people in the end. Those who say to God, 'Thy will be done', and those to whom God says, 'thy will be done'".

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- All indications are that we are very close to the end of the Age. Ignoring God's warning is one more sign.
- People reject God's provision for eternal life out of pride... pride is deadly!
- The gospel is powerful and it changes lives; believe it!