



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

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January 27, 2009

Dear Fellow Laborers,

As I watch the news on TV and read reports in magazines and newspapers, I have a strange feeling come over me. It is as if I am watching world events unfold according to a planned script. Now I know that the script was written by the prophets of God thousands of years ago, but that knowledge doesn't change the uncanny feeling I get! If you and I are permitted to live up until the day Jesus returns, we will be witnesses to those prophecies.

Do any of us really know how close we are to the end? Not really, even if we think we are experts in numerology. Jesus said we would not know exactly when the End of the Age would come.

And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority." (Acts 1:7-8 NKJV)

But Jesus also said that, while we cannot know the exact timing of the End, we should know that the time is drawing close.

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. (Matt 16:2-4 NKJV)

God gave us the writings of the prophets and apostles – even the words of Jesus Himself – so that we would be able to discern the signs of the times.

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. (1 Thess 5:1-5 NKJV)

These terrible times soon to unfold on the world will come as a thief in the night. This is not talking about *the way* a thief sneaks into your house at night, but rather it is talking about *the world's lack of preparation for these events*.

But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (Matt 24:43-44 NKJV)

With a new president assuming power in the US, many people are hopeful for positive change. The problem is that the Bible talks about things getting *steadily worse* until the Day of God's intervention in world affairs. If He does not intervene – all of humanity will die.

...then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved... (Matt 24:21-22 NKJV)

Things are not going to get better – they are going to get worse. There may be a calm before the storm, but the Bible tells us not to be fooled by such a calm. I repeat:

For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then *sudden destruction* comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (1 Thess 5:3-4 NKJV)

People are looking for a savior to save them from the problems they now face around the world.

Many Americans hope that President Obama will be able to save the nation from its financial woes and restore prosperity.

A recently released London *Associated Press* article entitled, "Breakdown in Order Feared as Pain Deepens" talks about rioting and civil disorder erupting in Greece, Iceland, Lithuania, Bulgaria and other European countries in financial trouble.

One out-of-work man in Riga, Latvia, said:

People are fed up: the government isn't helping them at all. They can't find jobs, even though many are standing in line at the employment bureau at four in the morning to be the first in line.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>"Breakdown in Order Feared as Pain Deepens", *The Nation*, January 25, 2009, p. 3A

It will not be too much longer before the Europeans start looking for a savior figure to save them. What the people of the world do not understand is that no human savior can save them from their problems no matter how promising or even Christ-like he may appear. There is only **One Savior** who can save us. He has promised to return and He **WILL** save us; but He is **GOD** and not a human being.

And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. (Matt 24:4-6 NKJV)

Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. (Matt 24:23-25 NKJV)

Jesus words, "*See, I have told you beforehand*" provide encouragement for us while we face what is coming. God mercifully does not leave us in the dark, but tells us **IN ADVANCE** what is coming so that we will not be caught off guard.

So **HOW** do we prepare for what is coming?

I recently received an email regarding a man who advocated moving to the country; store-housing food; and then buying a gun to protect the food from marauding bands of city dwellers he predicted would be coming to steal the food.

While this may be attractive advice for those who do not rely on God for sustenance and protection, it certainly is **NOT** for members of the Body of Christ! Can any of you imagine in your mind Jesus somewhere in the mountains, sitting on a food stockpile, and brandishing a loaded shotgun? I can't.

During the times that are to come, our only refuge is God. He is the only one who will save us. We will not be able to save ourselves. And would-be human saviors will only deceive us.

Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. (Mark 8:34-36 NKJV)

This does not mean you should just run out and get shot. It is talking about where your heart is. During the dark times to come, will we have our hearts in saving our own skins? Or will our hearts be completely dedicated to trusting God and continuing to **PREACH THE GOSPEL** all during the dark times – and if necessary, right up until the very day Our Lord's feet touch down on the Mount of Olives?

Will some of us lose our lives in the persecution of the Saints to come? Yes, some of us will. But many will be protected and sustained by God through the tribulation at the End

of the Age up until our change comes. There is no way of knowing which of us will fall into which category. Jesus said that we all must be prepared to follow Him wherever He goes, including even death if necessary for the sake of the Gospel.

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. (Rev 14:1-5 NKJV)

This financial crisis in which we find ourselves is only the opening chapter in what is coming on the Earth. I see the news and it is scary! We can do some things to prepare physically. But the most important preparation must be in the realm of the Spirit.

More than ever before all of us should draw closer to God. We should all be making more effort to cleanse ourselves from unrighteousness and the corruption of this world that is about to end.

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities." (Rev 18:4-6 NKJV)

We should renew our efforts to preach the True Gospel to those as yet unreached in this dying world. This is the job God has given us to do. He expects us to continue to do the job – no matter how long it takes and no matter **when** Jesus returns.

And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware." (Luke 12:42-46 NKJV)

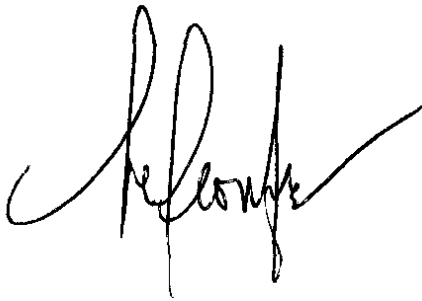
The clock keeps ticking. I cannot understand those who believe we have at least 20 or more years to go! I cannot even imagine it lasting that long. I am only 58 years old, but my recent close encounter with death has made me look at my mortality like never before. All of us are only a single breath away from death. It is God's faithfulness and **ONLY** His faithfulness that sustains us. As God's people, let us use whatever time He gives us and

the resources He provides in a rededicated effort to do our job and finish His work. There is a time coming, sooner than we may think, when we will not be able to work.

I just received information that the Myanmar (Burma) government will no longer permit people to gather in homes or apartments for worship services; and the building of new church buildings will only be permitted by government approval. This adversely affects almost all of our brethren in Myanmar.

We have no time to waste. Dark clouds are massing over us here in Southeast Asia. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar. Pray God protects them and provides wise congregational leadership to see them through the dark times ahead.

In Jesus' service,



T. Leon Sexton



Legacy Instructor, Elainea Spivey visits Seng Moon at Hospital

P.S. Little Seng Moon Aung, two year old daughter of Seng Aung and Seng Hpa (both graduates of Legacy), is in the hospital with a very bad staph infection called MRSA. It appears she caught this after a bicycle accident. This bacterium is one of the antibiotic-resistant super bugs. MRSA used to lurk only in hospitals, but now it can be found in communities anywhere worldwide. Scientists have discovered that even healthy people can be carriers and spread the bacteria. Please beseech God to heal Seng Moon and pray that God prevents this bacterium from spreading.