

# John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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## STANDING ON THE PRECIPICE:

### Living Through the Last Days In a Bumbling, Confusing, Evil World

We of all people who have ever lived are standing right now at the very edge of the moment when the Lord will return. Can you imagine how blessed we are to be able to see and participate in this time? Surely it is time for some reflection on where we are in history. It is also time for some straight talk.

This is a dangerous, confused, lost, naïve, and horribly evil world today. The majority are just flat out confused and lost, and don't know what is happening.

Let's go to the spiritual perspective. We are very, very close to the return of the Lord to collect his believers and to the beginning of the seven year tribulation. Very close.

Well, how close is that? Jesus said all these things – referring to his prophecies of things to happen before his return – would happen within one generation (Lk 21:22, Mk 13:30). Well, most – actually it appears all - have happened. How long is a generation to Jesus? From the Bible, we see possibilities of forty, eighty, and one hundred twenty years.

Suppose we declare the formation of the country of Israel in 1948 as the starting point. That is a highly prophesied event. Taking that as a starting point, then obviously forty years have passed, but eighty and a hundred twenty have not.

Alternatively, and perhaps wisely, we could pick 1897 as the start point, for this is when Theodore Herzl began the Zionist movement that eventually culminated in the establishment of Israel. In the years from 1897 up to 1948, there were many miraculous events that happened, and Jews even then began returning to the land of Israel, another end times prophecy.

If we take 1897, then of course forty years have now passed, and eighty years have now passed. Only the one hundred twenty year possibility has yet to be completed. We will reach the hundred twenty years from 1897 next year in 2017.

So you see, we really can't pin down precisely when the Lord will come, just that we are in the season of his coming and that it will be very soon. Jesus said that we could not know the day and hour (Mk 13:32, MT 24:36). But he surely indicated we could recognize the signs, and thus of course thus the season (e.g., Lk 21:31, Lk 17:26-37). And we can, and we have.

Now while we believers who pay attention realize how close we are, the bulk of the population of America and the world knows nothing about all this. They just go about their lives as best they can, and in many areas that is getting

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to be pretty confusing and dangerous. In America we have so much confusion, so much deception – one of the major things Jesus warned about – and just so much out and out lying and misleading. The formal church – i.e., all the various church buildings and the many denominations – have for the most part let the people down. How many specific individual churches do you know who are teaching about the return of the Lord and all that is involved there? Very, very few.

And for that matter how many do you know who teach seriously about the need to be born again and filled with and baptized with the Holy Spirit, about the gifts of the Spirit, about the fact that divine healing is for today, about the fact that John 14:12-14 is true today and so is Isaiah 53:3-5 and 1 Peter 2:24 and so much more I am always teaching about. Well, yes I can think of at least one major denomination that truly teaches about the being born again part, but the rest?

And how many churches do you know where the pastors and leaders speak about the falling away from God in society and about the deception and sinful behavior that permeates the national government, the state and local governments in places, the national media and the entertainment and business world today? Are they warning the people? If they can't discern this and then speak about this, who will?

America is now caught up in a political campaign for the presidency. The two candidates disturb many even who are not believers, and the campaigns already are full of dirt and innuendo and evil speech and so forth. But I tell you that regardless of who is elected, the nation and all people are still living in a time that is moving rapidly to the return of the Lord. Whatever happens to America or any other country, the Lord is still returning at the appointed time.

Paul made the bold point that the Day of the Lord will not happen until there is a falling away from God and the anti-christ is revealed (2 Thess. 2:3). That Day of the Lord concept refers to the end time events of and around the seven year tribulation – the return to collect the believers, the judgment of the tribulation period, the final battle at Armageddon. Well, who among you does not realize there has been a great falling away from the Lord in America (and in the West in general)?

In past writings and now here too I encourage all who know the Lord to be out there in the fray, to be representing Jesus wherever possible, wherever you are led. Certainly in all things be led by the Holy Spirit. This is not a world friendly to believers in Jesus Christ. But there is still time to speak to others about Jesus, to pray for God the Father to lead others to Jesus, to pray for others to receive all the Lord has for them, for them to be born anew, to be healed, to receive the Holy Spirit and more.

You cannot sit idly by and let Jesus be defamed. You just can't do it. John Calvin remarked once that even his dog would defend him if he was attacked. So surely, he reasoned, he should and could do likewise when Jesus is attacked!

In your daily interactions with neighbors, friends, and family members and others about whom you are uncertain as regards their beliefs, begin asking the Holy Spirit for guidance, for what you should or shouldn't do. And intersperse in your conversation words about Jesus, about his return, about God that give the other person an opportunity to indicate to you where they are. And just be led by the Spirit. You have to decide your approach.

In any event, when the Lord comes, as he has said to me, will he find faith on earth? And I ask, will he find you doing your best to represent him in your daily life?

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P. O. Box 15797, Wilmington, NC 28408    910 395 1465    [www.johnnewlinministries.org](http://www.johnnewlinministries.org)  
 Email: [info@johnnewlinministries.org](mailto:info@johnnewlinministries.org)    [Twitter.com/johnnewlinmin](https://twitter.com/johnnewlinmin)    Blog: [johnnewlin.blogspot.com](http://johnnewlin.blogspot.com)

## **BEING CLOSE TO THE RETURN---WHO REALLY IS GOING WITH HIM?**

So we are so close to the return of Jesus. And what does he do when he comes? Initially, he collects his believers, those who are citizens of the Kingdom of God. And who are they? Who really is going with him? Only God knows the answer to that question for everyone, but we certainly can recognize that at least right now not all those we would hope would be going. Percentage wise, not lots of people. Not some, perhaps not even many, of the people you know.

Well, Jesus did spell out what he was after. His conversation with the Jewish teacher Nicodemus was pretty clear (John 3:3-5). You must be born anew even to see the Kingdom of God. To get in, you must be born of water and the Spirit. The whole born again thing. Getting a new spirit. John the disciple explained that in John 1:12-13 as indeed moving to a place where God himself becomes your father. So, while you still have the same old body and mind, suddenly you have a new spirit. And life thereafter is one ideally of working to renew your mind and body to get it in line with your spirit.

Paul, the great missionary, also wrote about all this. He said in Romans 10:9 that if a person confesses Jesus is Lord and believes in his heart that God raised him from the dead, he will be saved. Using the original Greek words in which he wrote this passage, “confesses that Jesus is Lord” means Jesus is the person’s boss. You do what Jesus says. What did he say for you to do? Whatever you have heard from him in prayer or otherwise and all Jesus said that is recorded in the Bible. The word “believes” here is absolute belief, such as believing there is enough oxygen in the room where you are located to keep you alive. Otherwise you would be gone out of there! And then the word saved – it means total salvation, in all ways, wholeness physical and mental and financial and all ways.

Some other times the word believe is used as regards being saved---such as believing Jesus, who he is and what he did. Again, that is absolute belief.

Going to a church building weekly does not get you into heaven, although if it is a true church that preaches the Word of God your attending should help. No one else – your family, friends, preacher, whoever, can get you into heaven. It is you who makes the decision to receive Jesus as your Lord, to ask him for forgiveness, to give him your life. One on one.

Everyone does not go to heaven. That is one of the many lies of the devil that is often encountered. Jesus was specific about how narrow the way is and that few are they that find it (Mt 7:14). Paul spoke of those appointed to receive eternal life (Acts 13:48).

Jesus did say that no one could come to him unless his father draws that person to him (John 6:44). Another time the wording was enables the person to come (John 6:65). If you are thinking about all this, then God is already tugging at your heart. Open up, ask him to help you. Ask Jesus for help. Seek him. Read the Bible. Go be around people you think are serious believers.

The Lord indeed is coming soon to collect his CHURCH, his believers. You don’t want to miss that. As one of our directors years ago liked to say, you don’t want to miss this boat. Your role as a believer?

To be alert.

To pray for the lost.

To seek him with all your heart.

Praying for the lost is asking the Father to draw another person to Jesus.

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## IT IS TIME FOR YOU...

To prepare for the return  
 To learn more of Jesus and the gospel message  
 To begin living in the authority he has given you  
 To stand up and speak out for the Lord  
 To tell others the truth  
 To stand against evil  
 To protect yourself and your family  
 To put on and keep on the armor of God  
 To save, to heal, to deliver,  
 To run away from evil  
 To not think highly of yourself  
 To be a citizen of the Kingdom of God  
 To be an ambassador of the Kingdom of God  
 To be a soldier of the Kingdom of God  
 To love your neighbor  
 To fear God  
 To love God.  
 It is time.  
 Way past time.

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*Always remember to stay alert! The Lord is coming soon. I have it on good authority - his. May you live in the blessings of the Lord always. And keep your eyes on Jesus!*

## John

NOTE: For much more on the subjects of this newsletter, get our CDs **PROPHECIES FULFILLED, COMING IN THE CLOUDS, JUST HOW DOES ANYONE EVER REALLY GET INTO HEAVEN?**, and more. Request them by going to our web site CD page, writing, calling, or sending an email. And watch our television programs on the same subjects on the web site.

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