

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE SCREAM!



That's the way many of us feel at times, isn't it? Watching a world gone mad.

I know you recognize that image above. You may not know where it came from or who painted it but you have seen it! It's taken from the painting THE SCREAM by Edvard Munch, a Norwegian painter who produced this in 1893. This painting is now beyond the copyright protection period, so you are probably seeing it around from time to time now in a variety of places.

For our purposes, nothing can be more appropriate. Nothing ever produced by people more adequately presents the way some people feel as they look at the events and behavior of our day. Interestingly there is more than one group of people who identify at least in part with the horror in that painting:

- Believers – people like you and me – who are horrified at the general behavior of much of the population and also the behavior of many political and religious leaders and the destructive direction their actions seem to have taken. There is much prophecy in the Bible about these times, and specifically about deception and deceptive people. Jesus warned us not to be deceived. But of course those of us aware of the imminent return of Jesus and the last days and hours in which we are living realize also the great joy of what is soon to come for us and the fact that the picture above is for us only temporary.
- Nonbelievers who don't know what is happening but clearly recognize a society and world out of control – both the natural physical world and much of human society. They have no real hope for the future.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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- Those Christians and other churchgoers who know nothing about the Lord's imminent return and don't have the Holy Spirit and the gift of discernment to help them understand when they are being deceived but do realize something is dreadfully wrong in the world.

Many years ago back in my business days the company I worked for sponsored an exhibit of Edvard Munch paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Needless to say, THE SCREAM was one of the paintings exhibited. I still remember standing right by it, maybe three feet away. It looks just as horrible as you might imagine. It is a marvelous representation of those who do not know what is happening but realize something big and not good is happening.

I think I will adopt this painting to represent one aspect of these days. But I need another painting to represent the expectant joy of those of us who are waiting anxiously for the imminent return of the Lord and realize what that means for his believers. Let me know if you find such a painting, and maybe I will use it to represent all of us who have our eyes fixed on him and our hopes and expectations high.

THE NAME IS JESUS! HIS NAME IS JESUS! THE WORD IS JESUS!

All of us who know the Lord are surely often around groups where the name Jesus is just not brought up. Neighborhood gatherings, for example, or maybe an office party or some other group. It seems people just stay as far away as possible from Jesus, God, Christian subjects in such groups where it is not entirely clear how each person there believes.

Now here is the truth in a few words: We are living in the very last hours of this age on earth before the Lord Jesus returns. And it is indeed Jesus who returns, Jesus Christ, the king of all kings, the priest of all priests. The government is on his shoulders, thank God!

Jesus. Say that name out loud where you are. Say it several times. If you do, an amazing peace will permeate the room. (Unless you are around a group of nonbelievers or superficial cultural believers who will be highly agitated.)

The name is Jesus. His name is Jesus. The word – the most powerful word – is Jesus. Of course, it varies slightly in other languages, but in English, the word is Jesus.

He responds to that word. God the Father responds to that word. The Holy Spirit responds to that word. So too do the devil and his minions.

The great majority of those around you in life on this planet do not know Jesus. There are those who just are nonbelievers, and then those who know a little of the Jesus stories, and those who attend church but have never been born anew or filled with the Holy Spirit.

Now, we all have to leave to Jesus the determination of who is a true believer and who is not, although surely we can see those that just are not believers at all. And sadly there are so many who think they are Christians and attend the many fairly cold, dry churches and have never been born again and don't have a clue about the Holy Spirit. But they think they are Christians and are saved. We who preach and teach the gospel hope and pray they hear and receive and go further in faith; in the end, if they never do, they surely don't meet the criteria Jesus laid down. So we have to hope for his mercy for them.

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The Lord did make the point that few are they who find it, the way to life (meaning life with him, with the Father, in the Kingdom). I think we have to take him at his word. God does not lie. Jesus is God.

Why am I writing all this? Because it is true. And because we are so close to the return. The Lord has made that so clear to me. Just in the past couple weeks I wrote about this in the newsletter and in a Watchman Warning. We only have hours – how many I don't know, but surely that time is short.

The word that comes with great power is Jesus. I write this to encourage you not to be shy, not to step back from sharing what you know about him and the gospel. Whenever there is an opening, take a step forward, say a word, let the Holy Spirit guide you.

There are tons of friends and family and co-workers and neighbors that are not going with the Lord when he comes to collect his sheep. They just aren't. They don't know him. Imagine the joy that would come to you from helping God lead even one such person to Jesus.

Jesus. We aren't talking about Mohammed, or Buddha, or some other false prophet. We are talking about Jesus.

Don't let yourself be misled in any way in these last days. Keep your eyes on him. Read the Bible. Don't stray. Don't listen to vague and strange imaginings or ideas of popular spiritual teachers who are not based in the truth, or to those from some of the popular cults. Jesus warned about all these when he described these days.

Just keep your eyes on him. The Bible and the Holy Spirit as your teacher! What more do you need. Nothing.

Remember that name. Jesus. Say it all the time. He is the one who is coming soon.

PREPARING FOR THE RETURN – SOME WISE STEPS TO MAKE YOUR LIFE BETTER IN THESE LAST DAYS

In our book **WAKE UP AMERICA!** Chapter 12 discusses what a true believer is to do in these last days. The key subjects there are to do all you can to protect yourself and your family using the tools God has given and also to do all you can to help in God's leading others to Jesus and thus saving their lives for eternity. I will not reproduce that chapter here. You can read it yourself in the book; also go to our newsletter of March 2018 on our website to see a good discussion of putting on the armor of God.

What I want to do here is to encourage you to take wise steps as we near the Lord's return. These days already are difficult. We have highly confused and lost leaders on many fronts, and their actions certainly are not and do not promise to be wise or good. So we have to be alert to that. And secondly, as things get more and more disordered, we have more and more incidents of the natural disaster type such as these recent hurricanes that dump enormous amounts of water on areas or an increasing number of earthquakes or other such things. Natural disasters are certainly part of the last days as Jesus warned. You can read our chapter on that in **WAKE UP AMERICA!** too.

So what are you to do? Well, as a first step it would be wise to have enough water and food at home that you can survive a week or two if all power goes out or if conditions are so bad you can't go out to buy these things. Maybe have some solar or battery lanterns around. As part of that, perhaps have an escape plan ready if you need to leave where you are quickly. Some people who live on the coast already have such a plan. This might just entail knowing where you can go and what highways to take – such as going to a relative's house.

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I do not mean to frighten anyone but I must send this warning. Certainly I do not mean to tell you that you should immediately pack up and move. But I do tell you that you should increase your awareness to storms and such. Those living on the coast should never consider staying through a hurricane just because it is labeled a category 1. And if you are perhaps considering moving somewhere, consider not moving to an area prone to highly dangerous natural disasters like hurricanes or tornados.

I know this may sound strange, but as long as we are still living on this planet, we will have to deal with such disasters if they happen where we are. Certainly we can pray for God's protection everyday – such as his angels protecting us, such as putting on the armor Paul describes. But we also have brains so no doubt God expects us to use them, and if we can take wise steps to increase our safety and comfort, that seems a wise course.

We are now moving through the last period before the Lord's return. Even though there is much of life that is still good, we also are seeing and some experiencing much that is not good. There is nothing wrong with doing all you can to protect yourself and your family in these last days.

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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GET OUR BOOK WAKE UP AMERICA TO ALL YOU CAN!

Giving this book to others is one way to reach those around you with the truths of the gospel and the imminent return of Jesus. Most people will take a book given to them. They may read it later, but at least you will have a book in their hands.

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