

Don't Be Confused, Part 5

Steve Berger May 21, 2017

Don't be confused

Review — *Confusion = Rebellion, Idolatry, Self-Devotion*
— *Scriptures, Abortion, Homosexuality/Transgenderism*

- **Today** — **Don't Be Confused** — *About the Times We Live In*
- **1 Chronicles 12:32**
...the sons of Issachar had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...
We MUST be like them... understand times, know what to do!
- **Matthew 16:3**
You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.
Let's NOT have that said of us!

7 Signs of the Times and How to Respond

1. Seduction

- **1 Timothy 4:1-2**
Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...
- “more than 49% of practicing Christians agreed with the statement, “All people pray to the same God or Spirit, no matter what name they use for that spiritual being,”¹ *Summit Ministries/Barna Research*
- “Christian” author/blogger Glennon Doyle Melton married Soccer Star girlfriend Abby Wambach after divorcing husband of 14 years. He had cheated on her, he’s now supportive of her relationship, she still teaches Sunday School in her church.² **CONFUSED, SEDUCED, DECEIVED! Not hated. More broken-hearted than anger-minded.**
- **Matthew 24:4,5,11,24** all about deception in last days, it’s the defining trait!

Response

- **2 Timothy 2:15**
Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

¹ George Barna, *The Second Coming of the Church* (Thomas Nelson Inc, 1998) 21

² <http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-mom-glennon-doyle-melton-marries-soccer-star-girlfriend-abby-wambach-183719/>

2. Stress

• 2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

**Stressful times increase in society when godliness decreases in the church!
Form of godliness while denying power is nothing but dead religion!**

Response — *receive life-transforming power of God, turn from those who reject it! —
BYE!*

3. Sorrow — sign of coming, end of age?

• Matthew 24:6-8

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

**These things are increasing in frequency and intensity;
we must understand that, Jesus told us so, verse 25.**

Response — *don't let it harden your heart, don't let your love grow cold — verse 12*

Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of Virgins; Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of Talents — *preparing, waiting, watching, working — if we weren't so busy doing non-kingdom, non-eternal things, we would understand what's going on, we'd know how to respond, we'd have time to be the heart and hands of Jesus in a sorrowful, turbulent, broken world... laborers are indeed few!*

4. Scoffers

• 2 Peter 3:3-4

Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

- once scoffers willfully forgot — rain came from sky, flooded whole earth — judgement came...
- today there isn't rain coming — scoffers mocking return of Jesus — Jesus is coming — judgment is coming with Him!

Response —

• Jude 1:17-23

But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And *on some have compassion*, making a distinction; *but others save with fear*, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

- *from Jude 1: 17-23*: build self up on holy faith, pray in Holy Spirit, keep in the love of God, looking for mercy of Jesus, on some have compassion, others save with fear.

5. Strategies — message in itself, more to come in future...

...three references in Revelation tells me last days!

- **Psalm 2:1-3**

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.”

- nations rage, people plot, kings set, rulers counsel together, **AGAINST GOD** and **AGAINST HIS ANOINTED**, break bonds in pieces, cast cords away from us.

There are strategies being conceived and implemented against God, against Christ, against Their will and ways.

*Listen — beyond right vs. left; Democrat and Republican; conservative vs liberal; it's **DARKNESS** against **LIGHT**!*

- **Ms. Richardson**, Augusta Maine teacher, ordered to stop using religious phrases like, “I’m praying for you,” was reprimanded by School Department; can’t use phrases like “blessing,” even in private conversations with member of same church.³
- **Drag Queen Story Hour**- Brooklyn Public Library Saturday Storytime for Children, “Drag Queen Story Hour captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity in childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models,”⁴

Application — prayer and blessing out — drag queens in!

Godlessness happens because of behind-the-scenes strategies being conceived and implemented against God and Christ!

God’s response

- **Psalm 2:4-6**

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.”

³ <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2017/05/16/school-offering-to-pray-for-colleague-is-unacceptable.html>

⁴ <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/calendar/saturday-storytime-drag-q-park-slope-library-051317-0>

Christ's response

- **Psalm 2:7-9**

"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

God's warning

- **Psalm 2:10-12**

Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Response — *This is no time to be ignorant of the strategies that are being conceived and implemented. We must realize Who's on the Throne, judgement is coming, serve with fear, rejoice with trembling, kiss the Son, trust God — no cluelessness, love, worship, serve God — no misplaced trust!*

Seduction, Stress, Sorrow, Scoffers, Strategies — Is God doing anything?

- **Acts 2:17-21**

'AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS. AND ON MY MENSERVANTS AND ON MY MAIDSERVANTS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS; AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY. I WILL SHOW WONDERS IN HEAVEN ABOVE AND SIGNS IN THE EARTH BENEATH: BLOOD AND FIRE AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND AWESOME DAY OF THE LORD. AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.'

**God is pouring out His Spirit,
God is gifting people supernaturally,
God is showing signs of Christ's soon return,**

Question — What am I doing?

- being diligent to study word so not seduced?
- receiving power of god to live transformed life?
- being heart and hands of Jesus in sorrowful times?
- building self up, praying, keeping self in love of God, looking for mercy, having compassion, saving with fear?
- aware of strategies and working, serving against them?
- positioning self to receive spirit, operate in supernatural, prophecy, dream, visions?
- lead people to Jesus?

**This is no time to be confused about the days in which we live —
we must *wake up, suit up, show up* for the Kingdom of God!**

Discussion Questions

1. What can we *do* to become more like the sons of Issachar?
2. Are you aware of any deceiving spirit that is trying to influence your life?
How are you combatting it?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Is there any*thing* or any*one* in your life that you need to turn away from?
4. In the Parable of the Virgins, would you be like the ones who had oil for their lamps? Or not?
5. Do you know a scoffer? Is he one on whom you have compassion, or whom you save with fear?
6. What are you doing to position yourself to receive the Spirit, operate in the supernatural?

Before the Throne: Worship Night

Tuesday, June 13th

6:30 pm

Sanctuary