

Student Guide

The Signs of the Times

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

INTRODUCTION

Today, our Sunday School topic is **The Signs of the Times!** As Christians, it is important that we are aware, recognize and be knowledgeable concerning what the Bible says about the last days and end times. Because of the challenges that we see daily, we should be more mindful of where we stand concerning Biblical prophecy.

God wants us to not only live in righteousness but also discern the times that we live in. The lesson today is designated to provide discussion and insight concerning the eschatology (study of end times) of the age and what our responsibility is as Christians.

I. What are the Signs of the Times?

Many find it hard to believe that we could be living in the last days of earth's history. We need to take note of this because the Bible is not only accurate in history – but also in prophecy – those things to come! The "signs of the times" are those specific statements in the scriptures that lead us to particular times that are clearly stated in the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 ¹*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

²*For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy* ³*Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,* ⁴*Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;* ⁵*Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

II. Why is it important to know the times we are living in?

It is important to know the times that we live in, as Christians because it gives us perspective and understanding concerning the challenges and the assignment that we have here on earth. Living in a world that is hostile to Christianity, there will be temptations to just blend in, to laugh at the dirty jokes, tell lies, never to confront the gossip, and never to speak a word that would indicate that you are a Christian. Knowing the es, makes things clear and puts our challenge "front and center".

Matthew 16:24-26 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵For whosoever will save his life

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shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

III. What are some of the specific Signs of the Times?

1. **Men declaring that they are Jesus Christ** (Mark 13:6).
2. **False Bible teachers would arise.** (2 Peter 2:1-3)
3. **Homosexuality would be increasingly evident** at the end of the age (2 Timothy 3:3).
4. **Earthquakes** would be in diverse places (Matthew 24:7).
5. **Stress** would be part of living (2 Timothy 3:1).
6. **Many wars** would erupt (Matthew 24:6).
7. People would **forsake the Ten Commandments** as a moral code (Matthew 24:12)
8. Men would **substitute fantasy in place of Christian truth** (2 Timothy 4:4).
9. **Deadly diseases would be prevalent** (Matthew 24:7).

As you watch television and view the many social media outlets – it is clear, these events and situations are taking place now. To date - every prophetic statement from the Bible seems to have been fulfilled that characterizes the end times. So as Christians, we should be (1) **living right**, (2) **reaching souls for Christ** and (3) **looking for the Lord's return!**

2 Corinthians 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you*

Luke 14:23 *And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 ¹⁶*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

IV. FINAL REFLECTIONS

The recent events and global pandemic should get our attention! Jesus said there would be clear signs in our world before His return. Let's continue to pray, research the scriptures - and make the most of every opportunity in these challenging days. Be encouraged because God is with us!

Hebrews 13:5-8 ⁵Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

⁶So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.⁷Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of



Fall 2021 Quarter: Spiritual Maturity

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God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. ⁸Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

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