

Thursology 95: No More Chances!!! The FINALITY of CHOICE at Christ's Return

(Thursology Live! 1/5/23)

--Introduction:

--“Will people have a chance to change their mind about believing in Jesus when He returns and they actually see Him for Who He is?”

--Rev 1:1-3, 7: The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near...Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen

--The main theme of the Book of Revelation: “...Jesus _____ coming _____!!!”

--The powerful implications of the original text: Rev 1:7 ends with an affirmation of both the _____ and the _____ of That Day!!!

--Greek: “Nai”; Hebrew: “Amēn.”

--The specific meaning of the use of “nai” and Amēn together: When the promised event comes...it will be _____, _____, and _____!!!

--II Pet 3:3-4, 10: Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking...saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?” For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”...But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

--Too late to change your mind???

--Key Concept: At the final _____...when Christ comes...everyone’s _____ will _____ be made!!!

--Matt 25:1-13: Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’ Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

--Foundational Precept When Christ comes...it will be too _____ to _____ ready!!!

--Complaints against the “No more chances” precept:

--**Complaint #1**: For people who aren't "really bad"...it would be much more to give them a _____!!!

--The Big Problem with the human condition: We really want to *live our own* _____...and then...in the end...have in not _____ that we _____

--The biblical response to Complaint #1: God has _____ us with His amazing _____...and...His ever-faithful _____

--Romans 1:18-20: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

--Key Concept: Those who claim that they don't _____ God...or don't have enough _____ to believe in Him...are _____ ignorant!!!

--Luke 16:19-31: Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

--The rich man's implied accusation: "The reason I'm separated from God is because He didn't give enough _____...His Word was _____...and He didn't show enough _____ of His power for me to believe in Him."

--**Complaint #2**: Those who've rejected God before Christ's return would make a different _____ if God gave them _____... or...if He gave them more _____

--The complaint is invalid:

--Reason #1: While the rich man desperately wants to be _____
...not even his agony makes him _____ to change sides

--Luke 16:26: "...between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who _____ to come over from _____ to _____ will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us."

--An astonishing fact in the text: The _____ to change sides exists _____ on the side of the _____!!!

--One of the greatest of all biblical ironies: The lost haven't the slightest interest in crossing over the chasm into _____...but those who are in Paradise would be willing to cross over to the place of _____...because they've become...like _____!!!

--Reason #2: Repentance doesn't get _____ over time...it gets _____...and thus...a recurrent refusal to repent...ultimately becomes _____

--**APPLICATION #1:** Salvation...walking with God...can only occur through the decision to give up our _____ and our _____...and to truly allow Him to be _____!!!

--*The Great Divorce*: CS Lewis

--Key Concept: At His essence...God is Savior...and so...He would most assuredly have given us a _____ chances...if that plan had any hope of _____ the final decision that we would make...in _____ chance!!!

--**APPLICATION #2:** God is looking for those who will sacrifice their own _____ and _____ and _____...so that others will come to _____ Him!!!

--Romans 9:1-4: I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are the Israelites..."

--Final questions:

1. If you're totally honest with yourself...are you ready for His return? Have you taken your autonomy and your desire to run your life...and surrendered to the Coming King? Have you placed everything in your life at His feet? Does He have all of you...every corner...every decision...every plan?
2. Will you with Moses and Paul and Christ...sacrifice your life so that others may come to know Him? Are you willing to give your life away so that others may find the only hope that there will ever be? Will you lay down your life for those around you so that the Light of Christ will become so real to them that they're compelled to seek out the One with Whom you walk?

Thursology 94: Super Confident With YOUR Rapture View? **News Flash...MANY Believers Disagree With You!!! (#17)**

(Thursology Live! 12/1/22)

--**The Big Question:** Why would God leave something as **IMPORTANT** as the “blessed hope of the church” open to such dramatically **DIFFERENT** interpretations???

--Why God left this incredibly important issue open to so much debate: Because this is **EXACTLY** how He **WANTED** to leave it!!!

--**God's Purpose in the Ambiguity:**

--The bottom line of the Pre-Trib View: Be ready to be...**SURPRISED**!!!

--The bottom line of the POST-Trib View: Be ready to be...**PERSECUTED**!!!

--Key Concept: The Scriptural “ambiguity” **DEMANDS** that we be ready for **PERSECUTION**...and...that we be ready for...**HIM**!!!

--An interesting possibility that few authors and teachers acknowledge: A perfectly reasonable conclusion that emerges from centuries of **UNRESOLVED** debate about the timing of the Rapture...is that the debate is **UNRESOLVABLE** until **AFTER** Christ returns!!!

--**APPLICATION #1:** The Pre-Trib View emphasizes that...**DECISION** time...is **NOW**!!!

--**APPLICATION #2:** The Post-Trib View emphasizes that...**NOW** is the time to be **STRONG** and to **ENDURE**!!!

--Rev 13:1, 3-4, 7, 11, 14-18: And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea...And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”...It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him...Then I saw another beast...And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast...And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

--Why God would want the Post-Trib view taught: He wants us to be prepared to remain **TRUE** to the **FAITH**...even if it means going **THROUGH** horrible tribulation!!!

--A universal precept: (Luke 9:24): “For whoever wishes to **SAVE** his life will **LOSE** it, but whoever **LOSES** his life for My sake...will **SAVE** it.”

--Acts 21:8-13: On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses. As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, “This is what the Holy Spirit says: ‘In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’” When we had heard this, we as well as the local residents began begging him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

--An example of Luke 9:24 being lived out: "For I am ready not only to be **BOUND**, but even to **DIE** at Jerusalem for the **NAME** of the Lord Jesus."

--Matt 24:9-13: Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

--Key Question: How can **WE** be prepared to **ENDURE** the persecution that could be coming **OUR** way???

--Luke 17:28-31: It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back.

--V. 33: Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

--The message: We must be **READY** to **DIE** for The Faith!!!

--V. 31: On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back.

--V. 33: Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

--V. 32: Remember Lot's wife. (???)

--What's the answer to being ready for tribulation and even martyrdom???

--Remember...**LOT'S WIFE!!!**

--Gen 19:12-26: Then the two men said to Lot, "Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place; for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it." Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, "Up, get out of this place, for the Lord will destroy the city." But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting. When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city." But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the Lord was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city. When they had brought them outside, one said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away." But Lot said to them, "Oh no, my lords! Now behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your lovingkindness, which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, for the disaster will overtake me and I will die; now behold, this town is near enough to flee to, and it is small. Please, let me escape there (is it not small?) that my life may be saved." He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this request also, not to overthrow the town of which you have spoken. Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the town was called Zoar. The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord

out of heaven, and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But his wife, from behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

--Key Concept: Jesus' command to "Remember Lot's wife" means...if you want to be truly **PREPARED** for the persecution and tribulation that are coming...then **NEVER** look **BACK**!!!

--Heb 11:32-38a: And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated, people of whom the world was not worthy..."

--Heb 12:1-3: Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

--Key Concept: The only way to never look back is to...**FIX** our **EYES** on **JESUS**!!!

--Two great things about tribulation:

1. We have a faithful cloud of witnesses **CHEERING** us on...who know **EXACTLY** what it's like to make it through the **FIRE**!!!
2. As we keep looking **AHEAD**...and as we don't look **BACK**...we're preparing to **JOIN** the great cloud of witnesses someday!!!

The Major Events of the Tribulation

