

Love Grown Cold

The signs of the times

Matthew 24:3–14 (NASB95) — 3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” **4** And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. **5** “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. **6** “You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. **7** “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. **8** “But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. **9** “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. **10** “At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. **11** “Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. **12** “Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. **13** “But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. **14** “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

God is slow to anger

Psalms 86:15 (NASB95) — 15 But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

Prophecy can be tricky to understand

Isaiah 61:1–2 (NASB95) — 1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; **2** To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

If you love God you will love one another

John 14:15 (NASB95) — 15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 13:34–35 (NASB95) — 34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

God can protect us through tribulation

Romans 8:35–37 (NASB95) — 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** Just as it is written, “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.” **37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Tribulation provides opportunities for the gospel

Revelation 7:9 (NASB95) — 9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

Revelation 7:13–14 (NASB95) — 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?” **14** I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Obeying God will cause us difficulty

Matthew 10:34–39 (LSB) — 34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** “For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; **36** and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. **37** “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38** “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39** “He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

The farther our culture is from God the more we’ll stand out by obeying him

Matthew 5:14–16 (NASB95) — 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; **15** nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16** “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion:

1. Have you noticed the values of our culture changing in recent years?
2. Have you faced difficulties because of your faith?
3. Do you feel prepared if you face persecution?