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SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO GROW THE VISION GOD
HAS PLACED ON YOUR HEART

His Way Newsletter

Tribulation? Not in my Lifetime!

By Doug Cook

There's been a lot of discussion throughout the church with regard to the "tribulation" lately, especially concerning the pre-trib, post-trib, and mid-trib factions. I won't go into a colossal discourse on my position, but I will say that I used to be pre-tribber because I was listening to the "prophecy teachers" instead of doing my own in depth research in my bible. Once God finally persuaded me to study the bible for myself on the subject, I found out those "prophecy teachers" were wrong because they themselves were also following other "prophecy teachers." We lack godly wisdom when we decide on a doctrine first and then try to interpret verses to fit our preconceived beliefs, which I have had to repent of on many occasions.

Unlike what I had been taught, I discovered the 7 years of tribulation and the "wrath of God/ day of the Lord" are two independent events. The wrath of God takes place at the end of the 7 years of tribulation. 1 Thessalonians 5:9 says, "*For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.*" The bible is that clear that those who are truly in Christ will not suffer Gods wrath, but Jesus told us in John 16:33, "*In*

the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." He didn't say "ye shall have tribulation: **except for the last 7 years.**" Brothers and sisters I implore you to open your hearts and minds and study the bible for yourself. You will find that we as Christians will be going through the tribulation, and it's even at the door.

For those of us that have been believers for a while, we remember when tough times befell us or the economy went through a recession and "prophets" began proclaiming eminent doom and the tribulation was beginning, only to find out it didn't turn out as they said. I remember a book that came out in the early 1980's titled "88 reasons Jesus is coming back in 1988." Obviously that didn't happen either, but the scary title probably supplied the author with a nice income for a while.

The quandary with all of these previous false prophecies is that when the tribulation does come and the true prophets bring the warning (Amos 3:7, *Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.*), most Christians will ignore the Word of the Lord due to the many times they were deceived

*** Comments Welcome ***

We welcome the opportunity to give you, the reader, a chance to interpose your opinions on the subjects covered in our newsletters. In future issues, we will be adding a new section entitled "**From Our Readers.**" If you wish to express your opinion — pro or con — please E-mail your civil comments to: opinion@emeraldministries.com
Only initials will be used if the comments are published.

by the phony teachers crying wolf. The devil is a master deceiver and he has been using his counterfeit prophets giving false words for centuries so Christians would not believe the genuine prophets when they speak the truth. For this reason, we must not be so quick to squander a word just because it rings familiar to a false word we heard before. We must test any words given by man against scripture to determine truth. We must also take all prophetic words given and look for common threads that give the same message yet come from different people who don't know each other. The same word that is given by many divergent prophets usually signifies a true word the Lord is trying to convey to His people.

Whether we like it or not, at some point in time, we will receive a warning from the prophets and leaders in the body of Christ that we are in the tribulation. Jesus says in Matthew 24:36 *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."* He says we will not know the day and hour, but he doesn't say we won't know the year or the season. In fact, just before this statement He says in verse 33, *"So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."* When we see all the things previously mentioned in Matthew 24, we are supposed to know the year or season when Christ coming is at the door (which happens at the end of the tribulation).

Unfortunately, most pre-tribbers will not believe we are in the tribulation because they are not

raptured off the earth yet. Since they have surrounded themselves with ear-tickling preachers that say God wants them rich, fat and happy and wants the "best" for them (misconstrued as no troubles), their religious mindsets will keep them from the truth and unless they are able to open their hearts and minds, they will be part of the great falling away prophesied in 2 Thessalonians 2.

Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked; For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out. My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change: For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

Pro 24:19-22

Believers, we are in a time of great deception and holding on to a false doctrine is a dangerous place to be. It could cost your salvation (obviously, I don't believe in the once-saved, always-saved teachings either).

Even more regrettable, and the main focus of this article, is the amount of Christians that I have been encountering lately that have been studying their bibles and know that the body of Christ will go through the 7 years of tribulation, yet they just can't seem to embrace the fact that they will be the ones to go

through it. For some of these, when you remove all their reasons (excuses), they are operating in fear. The bible speaks plainly about this in 2 Timothy 1:7, *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* We are not to fear anything but the Lord. Those that are operating in fear of coming destruction lack understanding of who they are in Christ Jesus, and the ultimate cause of this is a lack of trust in God. They don't truly believe that God is in control of everything, including what will happen to His kids. He *"worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."* Ephesians 1:11.

There are a few believers that I encounter that are not operating in fear, but because of blood family relations, don't want to face reality. They are younger and just beginning a family and they want to finish rearing their kids before God brings the judgment. Some of the older ones want to see their grandkids grow up before the tribulation comes. Well, guess what? At some point in time, there will be many who just started a family when the trying of our faith begins. God is not going to stop all mothers from having babies for 20 years so he can start the tribulation. In fact, in Matthew 24:19 Jesus said, *"And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!"* Life will be going on as usual when that day happens and many children will be caught in the turmoil. These with blood bondages are people who are being selfish and thinking in the natural and not in the spiritual. If they can't break free from this bondage, they may not be able to move out of harms way when God gives the order. They may even take the mark of the

Prosperity Plunges

By Doug Cook

If you've been a Christian for the past decade, no doubt you've heard all kinds of teachings about the "prosperity gospel." I don't want to enlist in an elaborate dissertation about the doctrine, but everyone that embraces or is considering joining this bandwagon should take some time and do a study on the word "rich" in their bibles. Look up the word in your concordance or one of the many free bible concordance software's available and scrutinize the context used in each verse. Instead of taking the first phrase listed "*Abraham was a rich man*" and making a "God wants us wealthy like Abraham" doctrine out of it, look at all the verses where "rich" is used. The first time Jesus used the word was when He said "...*That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.*" Add to that other verses that say "*woe unto you that are rich,*" and "...*the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments.*"

In your studies you will find very few verses in the bible shed a positive light or "blessings" on the people that were prospering financially. On the contrary, a quick study on the word "poor" will result in many verses that encourage them like, "*blessed are the poor.*" With a true study and a heart that is open to correction, it won't take long to see that the prosperity gospel is a very questionable doctrine at best.

The next consideration is to evaluate the promoters of this dogma. They are running mega churches and mega ministries living a life of luxury that many CEO's can't afford. Most of them build themselves multi-million dollar mansions in the richest section of town, while the fleeced sheep, enamored by their teachings, can't even afford their light bills some months. This situation alone screams that something is very wrong with this doctrine. The bible says to give to the poor, not take from the poor.

I'm not rejoicing over tough economic times, but a good consequence of the downfall of our economy is that God is soon going to answer the prayers of the righteous that have been believing for the eradication of this false prosperity system. As personal discretionary incomes diminish, so will the "gifts" to these wealthy preachers. Believers will have to use that money for food rather than supporting these pastors lust to keep up with the Joneses.

Comments Welcome

Contribute to the section

"From Our Readers"

Coming soon to future editions.

Everyone has opinions where The Word is concerned!

Even though God may not agree with our theology, His "Love covers a multitude of faults."

Please E-mail opinions to:
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@emeraldministries.com

The further our economy goes into recession, the more pleading you'll hear from these racketeers. They will preach phrases like "You need to sew more seed when you're at your worst so God can bless you." You will also be inundated with mail solicitations that always ask for more donations to help "save the lost" or "reach others with the gospel." They will use threats like "we'll go off the TV if we don't hear from you today" and many other marketing schemes that have worked in the past. Believer, ignore these unbiblical promotions. God wants us taking care of others and the increasing number of poor that we will have in our own neighborhoods as the situation worsens.

Allow me to quote a very wise, godly George Muller, "God's work, done in God's way, never lacks God's support." This man never asked anyone for a dime, yet he built many large orphanages. George made his request directly to God and He took care of his every need. If God wants prosperity preachers to have mansions and private jets, then He will provide for them without the man made marketing schemes.

The prosperity doctrine is going to plunge to the depths it came from. As God removes it from his church, please make sure you're not embracing it, as you may find yourself at odds with the Lord himself.

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His Way Newsletter

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beast just to get some food for their baby! Guess where they end up if that happens? Again, this is a trust issue. Do they really trust God with the kids HE created? And for those that think I don't care and am not affected, my 5th grandchild is due in about a month. I want very much to see all of them grow up, but if I don't – praise the Lord. He is good and I trust Him with their future.

Believer, God has always planed major events around His holy days such as Jesus death at Passover. Many prophets have said the tribulation began in the fall Hebrew festivals which were in October of 2008. I'm not saying the day nor the hour, but I do know we are in the season and happen to believe that we are in the beginnings of tribulation. We need to approach this with great joy, not with fear.

Life as we know it will cease to exist and there will be much destruction, but we will also see a great revival and a harvest of souls like the world has never known. "Judgment must begin at the house of God," (1Peter 4:17) so God will be purifying his church first. He has to do this to get us ready to minister to the masses when literally all hell breaks loose here in mystery Babylon.



On August 3, 2008 we had the first meeting of the newly formed Church of Houston in our home. The task assigned us by the Lord is to gather the remnant in Houston and prepare them to go into the wilderness as Revelation 12 prophesies during the difficult times ahead. Our goal is to go back to the biblical example God gave us and operate this city church like the original church of the first century functioned. We have no denominational affiliation as this practice is not biblical and creates division and separation among the brethren. We welcome all who want to grow and mature in their walk with the Lord. The teachings come straight from the bible and do not include ear tickling doctrines of man that fill pews and increases offering income. We have no "senior" pastor because that position is not listed anywhere in the bible. The goal is to include all five fold ministers in the mix of teachers as it takes more than a pastor to fully mature the saints. The prophetic voice from true prophets of the Lord will be supported as God has given them to the body of Christ to reveal His secrets.

If you get offended when sins are addressed, then this may not be the place for you. Our Vision and fervent prayer is that pride be broken, the veil lifted from the eyes of the blind religious leaders and the true remnant bride within the City Church of Houston become *"fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love become one with each other."* (Eph 4:16)

We meet every Sunday at 9:30 am on the west side of Houston near I-10 and Sam Houston Tollway north.

For directions and information visit www.ChurchofHouston.com or call 713-463-8474

Any articles or words of encouragement in these newsletters are not necessarily the views or doctrines held by Emerald Ministries. It is not the intent nor desire of Emerald Ministries to censor content on the basis of different biblical interpretations. However, it is the responsibility of you the reader to study your bible to determine what the whole truth really is, and we at Emerald implore you to do just that. We would like to remind you that we have also provided a means to communicate your views to opinion@emeraldministries.com.