

Showing Them the Signs
A Ready Defense of the Rapture of the Church
Congregational Worksheet – Wednesday, July 2, 2008

This worksheet was created by Pastor Kincaid to help you complete and keep structured notes during the corresponding sermon. To fill in the blanks of this worksheet listen to the sermon from the date noted in the header of this worksheet. The sermon MP3 audio can be streamed or downloaded from the sermons page of the church website at <http://www.goshenfirstag.org/sermons.php> or a CD can be purchased (for \$1.00) from the church Media Ministry.

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Whenever you are trying to get an unbeliever to understand this essential doctrine of The Church, you first have to teach them three essential truths.

#1. The fact that The Rapture of The Church is something that is going to most definitely take place!!!

It is a matter of _____, not a matter of _____.

Regardless of any doubts that this unsaved world may have, The Return of Jesus Christ remains definite.

It's not some fairytale, or some type of _____, but it is proclamation of truth that has been given directly from The Word of God.

1Th 4:16 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:

1Th 4:17 Then 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.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Act 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

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#2. The fact that no one knows when The Rapture of The Church is going to take place.

We can't _____ like some scoffers demand us too, by acting like we should be able to give them a date that The Rapture is to take place by, and then they can see if it's true by whether or not it happens within the time frame that we give them.

But they need to understand that we don't even _____ to know the date that it's going to occur.

As matter of fact, The Bible makes it very clear that no one but _____ himself knows when The Rapture will take place.

Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Mat 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

So we can't say, "The Rapture's gonna happen on Aug. 9th, 2008, just wait, you'll see".

But just because we don't have the ability to give a date, doesn't mean that The Rapture's untrue, it just means that God has chosen to keep that point in time to himself, lest people would foolishly _____ to begin to serve him based off that time frame alone, so they could stay in sin as long as they possible could before "regretfully repenting".

#3. The fact that they need to be ready when The Rapture does occur.

The Rapture of The Church is one of the greatest incentives for _____ Living.

There are two reasons behind that statement...

1. The first reason for is based off the type of Church that The Word of God declares that Jesus is coming back for.

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Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

2. The second reason is because while God is “a God of second chances” _____ The Rapture of The Church takes place, when Jesus returns for His Church there will be no more second chances for anyone that has had a clear gospel presentation.

-Study 2 Thess 2:1-12. Also study the parable of the 10 virgins in Matt 25. And then after this basic foundation has been laid, you need to provide them with the prophetic _____ that proves to any logical mind that The Rapture is going to take place, and that it is likely to happen very soon.

Because while Jesus did say that no man knows the day or the hour that He would return, He also went on to give us some very _____ signs that would show that His Return was very near.

*Read Matthew chapter 24: 4-14.

Notice the list of evidences that Jesus gives in this portion of scripture that He said would be signs of His imminent return.

Also take notice of how each one of these evidences is on a dramatic _____ in recent years.

1. False prophets. Mentioned in verses 5 & 11.

Mat 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Mat 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Now there are basically three ways to look at this...

1. The “off the wall” _____ leaders that have deceived a few, such as; Jim Jones, Charles Manson, and David Ceresh.

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2. The false teachers that sum up the majority of “Christian television” that promote and proclaim things that are completely contrary to scripture.

Such as the modern day _____ preachers that are spoken of in...

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

1Ti 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Tit 1:10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, especially they of the circumcision:

Tit 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

3. The New Age Movement that is so prevalent in our society today.

The watch word of today is _____, and that word is the blatant motto of The New Age Movement.

The New Age philosophy is that each individual should be able to have their own opinion, and everyone else should be completely _____
Of their lifestyle and of their views.

But what they cleverly try to conceal is the fact that this philosophy is the very essence of Satanism, Anton Leve', the founder of the church of satan, said that Satanism could be defined in one statement, which is, “Do what thou wilt”.

#2. Wars and rumors of wars. Mentioned in verse 6.

Mat 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Our world has been in turmoil since the curse of the fall and it just seems to be getting worse and worse.

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From World War 1, World War 2, Korean War, Vietnam, the civil wars that are rampant across the entire globe, to the conflicts in The Middle East, war is unfortunately _____ in the world today.

It really seems that people would rather kill one another, rather than to even try to get along. And this attitude seems to be prevailing everywhere you turn.

Literally every nation today seems to desire to be _____ independent.

For example, nearly everyone hates The United States, The European Union is at odds, France hates great Brittan, all the countries of The Middle East never have and never will be able to stand each other. Everyone is at _____

Whatever happened to the command we are to obey that's found in Hebrews 12:14... Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: *Also: 2Tim 2:22, Rom 14:19.

#3. Famine. Mentioned in verse 7.
Mat 24:7 and there shall be famines,

It is no coincidence that the majority of the worlds most devastating famines that have occurred in the history of the world, have occurred from the year _____ to the present.

Whether it is The Chinese Famine that took place between 1958 to 1961 that killed 30 million people, The North Korean Famine of 1995 to 1998 that killed 220, 000 people, The Ethiopian Famine of 1984-1985 that killed over 1 million people, or The Ukrainian Famine of 1932 that killed 6 to 7 million people, the _____ of our world have never been more deadly and they have never been more frequent.

For instance, did you know that every year at least 15 million children alone die of hunger?

Every 3.6 seconds someone in our world staves to death.

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Throughout the 1990's, more than 100 million children died from preventable illness and starvation, and yet their deaths could have easily been prevented with just the amount of money that our world spends on it's militaries in just _____ days.

And it's interesting to note that for the price that is paid for just one scud missile, a average sized school could feed it's students a balanced lunch for over 5 years. But countries seem more concentrated on _____
People, rather than keeping them alive.

#4. Pestilence, earthquakes, and natural disasters. Mentioned in verse 7.
Mat 24:7 ... and there shall be... pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

It is a recorded fact that two third's of the worlds most devastating pestilences have occurred in the past _____ to _____ years.

The Black Death of 1347-51 killed 75 million people, The Spanish Flu of 1918-19 killed approximately 60 million people, and The Aids Virus has killed more than 25 million people from the year 1981 to the present.

The number of people with Aids has risen from 8 million in 1990, to more 33 million today, and the number is still _____.

And as of 2007, there were 33.2 million cases of people who had contracted The Aids Virus that were still living. And those are just that cases that have been diagnosed and reported.

And without doubt we can all attest to the growing number of earthquakes that have occurred recently.

But did you know that from the year 2000 to July 1st, 2008, there have been 93,195 earthquakes worldwide that rated ____ or higher on the richtor scale.

And Last year there were over _____ tornados in The United States alone.

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#5. The persecution of God's people. Mentioned in verse 9.

Mat 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Far more people have been martyred for their faith in modern times than in the past.

According to David Barret of The World Evangelization Research Center, over 25% of the worldwide Christian Church is made up of _____
_____.

The number of Christians that have been murdered for their faith has increased from 35,000 in 1900, to 260,000 in 1990.

And going right along with The New Age agenda, hate crime laws are being set up that make it tolerant to be _____ but Christian.

In Canada it is already illegal to preach or teach against homosexuality in Church services.

Also, when you are speaking of the persecution of God's people, we must mention The Jewish Holocaust that took place during World War 2.

#6. Lack of love and natural affection. Mentioned in verse 12.

Mat 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

It literally seems that in every avenue of life, you can see this taking place, and even getting _____ on a daily basis.

Regardless of what type of atrocity that you want to consider, whether it be abortion, murder, rape, child pornography, it seems that people are doing whatever they want, regardless of how it _____ or _____ those around them.

As of June 30th, 2007, there were over 3,113,000 criminals that were incarcerated in the prison system of The United States alone.

Every 2 minutes in our country someone is sexually assaulted.

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The _____ rate has quadrupled in the past 30 years, moving from 4.3 million a year in 1970, to 18.3 million a year in 1996.

50% of all marriages end in divorce, even within The _____.

#7. The Gospel will be preached to every nation. Mentioned in verse 14.
Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

It stands without question than more nations are being penetrated with The Gospel now, than at any other time in history.

Previously _____ countries, such as Russia, Sudan, Iraq, & China are now either open to missionaries, or are being infiltrated by missionaries regardless of their stance.

For instance, Russia used to be called “The Iron Curtain”, and spiritually speaking that description fit very well, but in recent times God has caused “The Iron Curtain” to _____, just like He did the walls of Jericho. And in the nations that The Gospel is being preached in the midst of persecution and hostility, The Churches there are not only surviving, but they are thriving and _____ at “early Church” rates.

*Other things to consider.

-Religious compromise.

2Ti 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come....

...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2Ti 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

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1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

1Ti 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

One of the most common complaints that you hear against The Christian Church is “all the _____”.

-The tribulation period will consist of a one world government and economic system.

Our world is already headed in that direction.

The United Nations not only promotes it and it believes it, but a one world governmental system is their _____ and it's their _____.

The nations of Europe are already on a single currency called The Euro.

Now, Revelation 13:16-17 reads...

Rev 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Rev 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Notice the way that is worded... it says _____ their right hand or their foreheads.

The technology is already in place to fulfill this scripture. The computer chip could control the worlds currency and keep an accurate account for all.

***YOU CAN'T MOCK THESE OBVIOUS FACTS!!!**

NOR CAN YOU MOCK THE WORDS of CHRIST WHEN HE SAID...

Luk 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.