

By Dr. M. Holloway

Amplified by

Dr. James Gangwer

The Last Days

## Biblical Characteristics of the Last Days – Part II

**Intro:** Things predicted such as we find in the Bible, whether or not they have been predictions fulfilled or more specifically those prophecies yet to be fulfilled, tend to \_\_\_\_\_ a whole lot of attention. I suppose that is why for the unsaved, wizards, fortune tellers, tarot cards and crystal balls get so much \_\_\_\_\_. Who would not want to jump at the chance to know what tomorrow or next week has in store for us if it is some how possible. God never \_\_\_\_\_ such quests but rather, leave tomorrow, next week or whatever in His hands. Sufficient is the day unto itself – **Matthew 6:34** – “**Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**”

God does \_\_\_\_\_ us to be prepared for and ready to handle what our tomorrow, our next week or so, may hold for us. Such \_\_\_\_\_ involves gleaning from our studying and meditation in the Word of God and walking in the Holy Spirit. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of information from which we will be prepared to handle whatever events are likely unfold before us.

I say this because though our curiosity draws us to the book of Revelation, and God has seen fit to include a somewhat detailed account of the Tribulation and somewhat of the Millennium, these events are for those who will not be \_\_\_\_\_. The book of Revelation is for those who will be left behind and even a somewhat \_\_\_\_\_ guide for those who come to a saving faith in Christ during the Tribulation. The Redeemed of the Lord prior to the rapture will spend the Tribulation time of seven years with Christ in heaven.

Our first point was,

**I. Warfare is going to increase in the last days – **Matthew 24:6** - And today,**

**II. Materialism is going to reach epidemic proportion – II Timothy 3:1 – 2.**

A. Materialism is a problem of the \_\_\_\_\_ and Billy Graham wrote this some time ago: “Carnality is a biblical word that is not used much anymore, but has a powerful effect on life. It means living life consumed by satisfying fleshly desires, feeding selfishness while

serving the body and starving the soul. Carnality is the state of depravity. Even the dictionary defined carnality as the “opposite of righteousness,” also a word that is not heard about much today, even in church. Those who desire to live effective Christian lives must no longer live in such a state of carnality. Belonging to Jesus Christ will cost you your sinful pleasures.”

B. As we get closer to Christ’s return, we are going to notice our society and the world becoming more and more concerned with “\_\_\_\_\_” as the sole purpose of pleasing themselves.

1. Jesus stated in His sermon on the mount recorded in **Matthew 6**,

a. **Verse 19** - isn’t about poverty, but about \_\_\_\_\_ and one’s focus.

(1). The idea is to not be \_\_\_\_\_ with temporal things.

(2). Again, the idea is that there is no need for the temporal in eternity.

(3). The temporal can decay, rust or be stolen.

b. **Verse 20** - Is about keeping our mindset on the real \_\_\_\_\_ of things that are of an eternal nature and not subject to decay, rust or thieves.

c. **Verse 21** - reminds us that our flesh can and will lead us in a vastly different direction than is in our best eternal interest.

2. God is not saying we can’t have nice things, nice homes, nice clothes, etc.

a. He is saying that we can’t become \_\_\_\_\_ with material things because when we do, these things become the \_\_\_\_\_ of our soul and will interfere with our ability to give our heart fully to Him and our future in heaven –

**(Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37)**

b. And when we indulge ourselves in material things we will become spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ and though this may not seem a big deal here, it will be a very big deal when we stand before Christ at the Bema seat where we will, as the Redeemed of the Lord, give account of our stewardship – **Romans 14:12; I Corinthians 3:15;** and **II Corinthians 5:6 – 11.**

c. So that we can be \_\_\_\_\_ from the worry, the concerns of our most basic needs, the Bible give us assurances that God understands those needs and promises to provide our NEEDS, not our wants – **Matthew 6:25 – 34; Philippians 4:19.**

C. We are \_\_\_\_\_ in a number of ways to the fact that materialism is escalating as we close in on the “last days”. Spiritual matters are in decline, church isn’t important, nor is reaching the world with the Gospel, one’s personal walk with Christ takes a backseat, and the promise of God preserving the Bible continues to be attacked.

D. So many of the things we read that will take place in the Tribulation are well under way.

1. They won’t just appear overnight, they are under way and will escalate or become full-blown in the Tribulation.

2. When we are in the Word of God and gleaning insights and knowledge we will readily see with our own eyes that we are on course for the “last days” – **II Timothy 3:1 – 14.**