

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

October 29, 2023

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WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

By Joe Slater

Wars! Russia and Ukraine; Israel and Hamas; the list is virtually endless. Each new conflict brings a new herd of prophecy mongers misapplying Jesus' warning to His disciples in Mt. 24:6. *"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars."* Do all these wars mean the second coming of Christ is imminent?

Let's not push the panic button as we look at what the disciples asked, and the answer Jesus gave. The disciples had been showing Jesus the beautiful buildings of the temple (24:1). He told them, *"Not one stone shall be left here upon another that shall not be thrown down"* (24:2). Like any loyal Jews, they were horrified at the thought of the temple being destroyed. Naturally they wanted to know, *"When shall these things be? And what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?"* (24:3) "These things" must refer to the events surrounding the destruction of the temple. This would signal not the end of the created universe, but the end of an age.

Jesus' answer likewise pertained not to the end of time, but to the destruction of the temple. Signs of that impending disaster would include wars and rumors of wars. Once the Roman army surrounded Jerusalem, the end was imminent (Luke 21:10). The *"abomination of desolation...standing in the holy place"* (Mt. 24:15) clearly refers to the Roman army destroying the temple. As the Lord had come in judgment against cities and nations many previous times, this coming was against Jerusalem.

Unlike the destruction of Jerusalem, no signs will indicate the return of Christ in final judgment. He will come as *"a thief in the night"* (I Thess. 5:2; II Pet. 3:10). How many thieves give signs of their coming? The second verse of the song, "Jesus is Coming Soon," errs in saying "when these signs come to pass, nearing the end at last." The signs heralded the destruction of Jerusalem, not the return of Christ.

**He has granted to us His precious
and magnificent promises. 2 Peter 1:4**

Pray for the sick: You may not know some of them but God knows them and their needs, so let's lift them up to Him!

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings, Sandi Holt, Pat Tucker, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Butch and Jenny Womersley and family. On-going personal Bible studies World turmoil; people of Russia, Ukraine, Israel Cipolla family "Celebrate Recovery" AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier Dale and Maddy Ruth Banks; now at home, fell again Latin American Missions Tracy Moran (Diane's niece); cancer, chemo Ashley Cox (Wayne, Doris' granddaughter); health Debbie Revel (Cassie's mother, cancer) Coleman family as they care for Kenny's parents Karen Sowell; medical procedure Nov. 29 Michelle Tucker; cardiac testing Prince Ituni's wife; surgery in Nigeria Sue Banks (Jean's niece) Brenda Pepper; open heart surgery upcoming

CELEBRATE RECOVERY each Monday evening from 6-8 in the FLC.

WOMEN'S STUDIES— Apostle Paul study Fridays at Cathy's, coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday evening Zoom study at 7:00 pm.

LADIES' DAY AT LAUREL AT LAUREL was yesterday with a great attendance and a great speaker, Erynne Sprouse. She gave us a lot to think about and we thank her for coming.

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP MEAL will be today. Try to stay and enjoy some food and fellowship.

CLOCKS NEED TO BE TURNED BACK next Sat. evening, Nov. 4th.

MEN TO SERVE;
Welcome/Scripture; Julio-29th; Philip-5th Prayer; Philip-29th; Dave-5th Table; Shawn-29th; Lanny-5th Announcements/Closing prayer; Chad-29th; Danny; Nov. Song Leader; Troy-29th; David-5th

Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at: www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.

Tuesday:

Women's Zoom Study	7:00 p.m.
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Wednesday

Men's prayer (Shawn's)	7:30 a.m.
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Bible Study at building	6:30 p.m.
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Friday ladies' Paul study	10:30 a.m.
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We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray that you might find a home here with us in Laurel and with God in heaven as His child.

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).