

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

March 24, 2024

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THE FAILURE OF END TIME PREDICTIONS

By Greg Gwin

When political matters flare up around the world (as they often do) the end-time prognosticators go to work at a fever pitch. They claim that current events are a sure sign that Armageddon is at hand, the Lord's return is imminent, and the 1000 year kingdom on earth will soon be established. The self professed prophecy experts explain how we are witnessing the fulfillment of prophecies contained in Daniel and Revelation.

In the face of this wild religious speculation, we should be reminded of several things:

1-No one knows and no one can successfully predict the time of the Lord's return. At least three times the Scriptures refer to the Lord coming "as a thief in the night" (Mt. 24:43, 44; I Thess. 5:2-4; 2 Pet. 3:10). Obviously, a thief does not give advance warning. Likewise, the Lord has given no indication of when He will return.

2-Jesus has no plans to establish a physical kingdom on earth. He never had such a plan (John 6:15; 18:36). The truth is that the Lord is presently reigning over His kingdom which is already in existence. The Lord's kingdom is the church (Acts 2:29-33; Mark 9:1; Col. 1:13).

3-Daniel and Revelation both contain some highly figurative language, and must be understood in the light of that fact. Daniel's prophecies involved things leading to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD (Dan. 12:6-7). The book of Revelation discussed "Things which must shortly come to pass" in the first century (Rev. 1:1). Any interpretation which fails to take these facts into consideration is seriously mistaken.

**Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth! Psa. 46:10**

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, Ruth Banks, Michelle Tucker
On-going personal Bible studies
World turmoil; people of Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Guyana, Cameroon
Cipolla family
"Celebrate Recovery"
AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier Dale and Maddy
Latin American Missions
Sympathy in the passing of Sue Banks and Shane's friend, Dave.
Brenda Pepper's continuing recovery
Butch and Jenny's daughter, Robin
Julia's Dad, Haines; broken hip surgery went well
Charles Fooks (Jean's brother)
Phil's sister, Sherry Winter, back surgery this week
Expectant mothers to be: Elizabeth Hudson-June; Jess Hudson-July; and new mother Lauren (Ellis) James of daughter Birdie Blu, born Mar. 17.
Tracy Moran (Diane's niece) chemo follow up tests

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

WOMEN'S STUDIES— "The Good News" study is at Cathy's each Fri. morning; coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday evening Zoom study on Hebrews at 7:00 pm .

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP MEAL is today, 3/24. Everyone encouraged to remain and enjoy!

EASTER EGG HUNT Mar. 31. Please bring wrapped candy. Eggs will be stuffed Wednesday Evening, Mar. 27th and help will be needed.

VISITORS please fill out a Connection Card in the back of the pew and place in the offering plate.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; 3/24-Philip; 3/31-Dave
Prayer; 3/24- Chad; 3/31-Vinny
Table; 3/24-Lanny; 3/31-Andy
Song Leader; 3/24- David; 3/31-Troy
Announcements/Closing prayer; 3/24—4/14-Danny

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)	7:15 a.m.
Bible Study at building	6:30 p.m.
Friday ladies' Paul study	10:30 a.m.

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).