

## Matthew 24:32–34 (NKJV)

<sup>32</sup> “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. <sup>33</sup> So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! <sup>34</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.**

- Jesus spoke these words standing at Jerusalem’s Temple Mount – Ground Zero for Bible prophecy

We have looked at signs in the heavens as well as prophetic fulfillment concerning Israel, as well as cultural signs that are pointing to a “falling away” from Biblical morals and truth

The signs are everywhere that point to the return of Jesus and the catching away of the Bride of Christ – Am I ready?

In **Luke 17** Jesus gives a graphic picture of the “catching away” (Rapture) of the Body of Christ

## Luke 17:27–37 (NKJV)

- The Rapture will be selective
- Believers will be delivered from the wrath to come
- It doesn’t matter if your husband, wife, or parents are believers
- One will be taken and the other left

Jesus said there will be buying, selling, marrying, and giving in marriage before the rapture

- Just as it was in the times of Noah and Lot

Those who turn from idols to God and serve Him are delivered from the wrath to come

- We will not be judged with the rest of the world
- We will be rescued like Noah and Lot
- We will be marrying Jesus and preparing to rule and reign with Him
- We have nothing to fear

### 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup>For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

### Genesis 6:9–13 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup>This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup>And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. <sup>11</sup>The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. <sup>13</sup>And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

- Corrupt – *‘evil, filthy and immoral’*
- It was not merely a bad world, it was an evil world

## 2 Peter 2:4–11 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup>For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; <sup>5</sup> and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; <sup>6</sup> and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; <sup>7</sup> and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the **filthy** conduct of the wicked <sup>8</sup> (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)—<sup>9</sup> *then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, <sup>10</sup> and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, <sup>11</sup> whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

- Filthy – ‘*shameless, immoral, and full of wrong desires*’
- Desires for pleasure and absolutely no fear of God
- When the angels came to deliver Lot and his family, the men of the city tried to get the angels to have sex with them
- That’s pretty ungodly

If God allowed our society to continue in the direction we are heading He would have to apologize to Noah and Lot

## 2 Timothy 3:1–9 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:  
<sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! <sup>6</sup> For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; <sup>9</sup> but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

- Sounds like our present day
- Here Paul lists 19 separate moral violations
- He says there will be wholesale destruction of morality in the world

When I was a kid, if I misbehaved in school, my parents didn't complain or call the ACLU they didn't threaten my teachers

- They disciplined me
- We left our doors unlocked
- We played outside, day and night and no one had any fear about it

Paul is explaining the full spectrum of sin that will be in the world in the end times

- Immorality isn't just about sexuality, though it includes that
- Immortality is a measure of character
- In the same way a cancerous cell starts out and eventually takes over your whole body
- When we fall into gross immorality it effects our whole character
- Morals are there to protect us, others, and our relationship with God

## **Four Categories of Immorality**

### **Exaltation of Self**

- This may also be referred to as narcissism in contemporary terms
- Lovers of self, boasters, proud, haughty, headstrong
- Just look at professional athletes
- Some of that is ok and become part of the game
- When I was a kid no one did that
- I don't want to be overly critical; I know it has become socially acceptable to do some end zone celebrating
- The point is, a certain self-centeredness has invaded our culture – Facebook, YouTube, celebrity shows

We are living in a world of socially sanctioned narcissism

Its not that we love ourselves; but that we love ourselves to the exclusion of God and everyone else

## Rejection of Authority

The apostle Paul says many people will reject authority in the last days

- They will be “*disobedient to parents*” and “*lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*”
- Law enforcement personnel in the US are under assault, as they are elsewhere in the world
- These individuals guard our society for low-level wages
- They have become prime targets for both physical and legal assaults

Teachers also face a society that no longer respects their role

- We see students threaten to assault teachers and parents say it’s the teachers fault for making the student mad
- Teachers need authority to teach
- We are moving toward and increasingly lawless society in which no one fears or respects authority
- Just look at the political disrespect in this country

Remember the Antichrist will be called “the lawless one”

When you are in rebellion to authority you have the same spirit as the Antichrist

## Vicious and Unloving

Paul said that people would be disloyal, unloving, and verbally vicious

- They will be unforgiving and unwilling to reconcile
- They will be blasphemers, slanders, and traitors
- This seems to be what we see all over the internet

We live in a culture with the entire media dedicated to gossip, and they don't care whose lives they destroy

Today it seems like the media's goal is to embarrass anyone and everyone they dislike

## Rejection of Moral Standards

If you wait until marriage to have sex you are considered an oddity or openly mocked

- Even in Christian circles

### Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup>Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

- We need more young people to commit to purity before marriage
- How many times have you heard, *"It's my body, and you can't tell me what to do with it."*
- Paul warned there would be despisers of good in the last days

## **Sexuality in Rebellion**

There have been four innovations in our time that have compromised sexual morality beyond what any previous generation could imagine

## **Global Distribution of Pornography**

Anyone who can access a phone, computer, or digital device can access the most explicit pornography humanity has ever invented

One attempt to produce a study on the effects of pornography usage among college-aged young men failed to materialize when researchers could not identify a control group who *did not* view pornography

- Another study found that four separate one-hour long exposures to R-rated materials modified men's perceptions of women
- It influenced the way they would relate to them sexually

Imagine the effects of constant exposure to graphic pornography has on the minds and behaviors of those who consume it

- Pornography has negative effects on relationships and has destroyed millions of marriages



## **Virtual and Robotic Sex**

Pornography has become something that has a limited risk of exposure

- This supposed privacy only feeds our society's obsession with self-focused and selfish sexual expression

God created sex to be servant oriented with a concern for your spouse in a marital relationship

Humans have become more inventive with self-focused sexual expression

- Technology is now replacing humans in the sexual equation
- Some people have become so obsessed they claim to be, in love with their sex robot

## **Pansexuality**

This is the idea that a person can be open to sexual experiences with a person of either gender or with someone who does not identify with a gender

- This is a relatively new phenomenon and considered "*cool*" among younger generations
- It is an expression of sexual rebellion and a refusal to follow social or religious morals or norms

Pop stars like Miley Cyrus has identified herself as pansexual and publicly engages in relationship with both males and females, as well as Transgender

## Transsexuality

Even though this has been around since the sixties it has become more mainstream

- Caitlyn (formerly Bruce) Jenner
- Once a famous Olympic athlete
- 2015 he announced to the world that he would be transitioning to a female
- Many celebrities and politicians celebrated his “*courage*”
- This is often referred to as “*gender reassignment*”

The idea behind this is that humans are biological accidents, and that gender is socially constructed

To believe this you must either believe that there is no God or that He is a bungling idiot

### Psalm 139:13–18 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. <sup>14</sup> I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them. <sup>17</sup> How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup> *If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

If we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God than how could we have been assigned the wrong gender

I do believe that those who struggle in this area need a compassionate response, but sex change surgery is not the answer

- You cannot change or reassign your gender
- Its merely a cosmetic change
- Gender change is in name only
- 41% of those who undergo this type of surgery subsequently attempt suicide
- They are disappointed because the change never materializes
- The truth is they become sexually dead

No amount of surgery or hormones can correct that feeling

## **God is Calling us to Return to a Biblical View of Sexuality**

The marriage covenant between a man and a woman is a permanent, sacrificial relationship of blessing

- It is more than a mere contract
- It changes the identity of both the man and the woman
- Sex consummates the marriage union
- It seals the deal
- Sex is more than an act that simply makes us feel good

## 1 Corinthians 6:15–20 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! <sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For “*the two,*” He says, “*shall become one flesh.*” <sup>17</sup> But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. <sup>18</sup> Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

- The time is coming when God will no longer allow sexual immorality to run rampant
- As in the days of Noah and Lot, He will soon intervene

## What Should Be Our Moral Response?

### Exaltation of Christ Over Self

- Godly people should be neither haughty nor proud
- We should be humble and exalt Christ over ourselves
- We should be “*clothed in humility*” – 1 Peter 5:5
- Putting on humility isn’t something that comes naturally
- You have to put it on like a garment
- We have to make a choice to allow God to work in us so we will put away our old prideful selves

Once you become a follower of Christ your life isn't about you anymore; its about Jesus

- If we live this way we will always be thinking of ways for Christ and the Gospel to be presented through our lives
- We won't be thinking so much about how we can get ahead
- When we get to heaven it won't be about us, it will be about Jesus

As believers, we must take off our arrogant, narcissistic clothing, put on humility, and exalt Jesus

### Ephesians 4:22–24 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

### **Submission to God's Authority and His Delegated Human Authorities**

Because I am a Christian I am not destined to be a rebel

- Rebellion is not compatible with Christianity
- We must be submitted to God and those He delegates authority to

Jesus did not rebel against authority to exalt Himself or make a political statement

- He submitted to authority both in Heaven and on Earth
- Jesus submitted to His Father's authority – **John 5:19-20**
- He submitted to his earthly mothers authority  
– **Luke 2:41-52**
- In fact, she was the one who told Him to begin His earthly ministry – **John 2:1-11**

## Acceptance of the Bible's Moral Standards

Our natural man wants to do the things the Bible says we shouldn't do as well as not do the things the Bible says we should do

- We all fail and make mistakes
- There is a difference between committing sin and choosing to live a sinful lifestyle
- You can't claim to be submitted to Christ and live your life the way you want

God isn't a vending machine where we can take what we want and leave everything else

- *“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’ and not do the things which I say?”* – **Luke 6:46**
- Lord means Master
- You can't say, *“Lord I want you to be Lord of my life, but I'm going to sleep with anyone I want and sell some drugs on the side.”*

## Loving Others Loyally and Sacrificially

Believers shouldn't be troublemakers, gossips, or mean spirited

- Jesus said, "*Blessed are the peace makers*" – **Matthew 5:9**
- We have become a very immoral and vicious nation

Our society condones abortion, sexual immorality, violence, and every other category by which God could judge a nation

- Our lives must show people the way to God rather than being under the influence of the culture
- God wants us to live our lives intentionally with the purpose of glorifying God
- We can be salt and light while loving people sacrificially

### **Matthew 5:13–16 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.