

# August 2003: The Last Days: Tell Someone About Christ (Part 3 of 3)

by Aaron Greenway

Several years ago, someone came out with a booklet with the title “Eighty eight reasons why the rapture will happen in 1988.” I cannot remember the author, but in it was a list of eighty eight prophecies that pinned the date to three days in October. It almost convinced me that the author was right. I remember telling my high school basketball coach, Tony Phelps, “Tomorrow might be the day Jesus comes back.” He turned to me and smiled, “If so, we will go to be with Him in glory. If not, I will see you tomorrow bright and early for basketball practice.” For the next three days, I woke up. Jesus had not come back on those days.

Many believe that it will be in our lifetime. Many like Hal Lindsey, John Woolvard, and others have said that many world events could lead us to the second coming of Christ yet while we are still alive. If they are right (and even if they are not), we have a responsibility to first, be right with the Lord; second, to take note of the signs, and the last one, that we are about our Father's business. What is our Father's business? Jesus gave us a command, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). If what these people are saying is true, Christ could come back tomorrow and the question remains, “How many people that we meant to tell will be left on the planet because we didn't take the time?” This will be a huge tragedy.

I just recently saw the sequel to the "Left Behind" movie, watching the reactions of those who had lost loved ones. While

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we cannot determine exactly what will happen after the Church is raptured, we can say that those who are left behind will be in a state of utter disarray because they have lost their loved ones and they will now have to face the antichrist and his evil schemes, under the power of Satan himself. How many of those will face that because we chose to be quiet.

I remember my days back in seminary surrounded by folks going into the ministry, learning how to share Christ with others. Across the street from the seminary is a “Jack in the Box” fast food restaurant and a hotel. One person after some investigation one time mentioned that the people there had never been told about Christ. If he was right, this is a tragedy. But it is a reality in many churches, seminaries and Christian groups. We lock ourselves inside, and shut out the rest of the world because we are afraid we will be made fun of and rejected. Sometimes, it is because we don't know what to say. And then we use our particular group as a cover so it appears we are serving the Lord when we are really not. We can be just obedient enough, just faithful enough so that we avoid really serving. We avoid getting negative attention that way, don't we? The problem is, even if others don't catch it, it doesn't pull the wool over God's eyes.

A serious question has to be asked. Do we really love people? Jesus always put Himself in the path of criticism so that others could be healed and hear the Good News. Even His disciples took heat for things they did (Mark 7:1-23). I am convinced the Church and the seminaries need to equip believers to share their faith, to get involved in the lives of sinners. This does not mean we conform to the worldly lifestyle, but it does mean that we do not isolate ourselves from it. Ken Hemphill, former president of Southwestern Baptist Seminary, told the student body one time that 15% of everything one needs to do ministry will be learned at seminary; 85% of everything one needs to do ministry will be learned in the ministry because it is all about relationships. Whether we are going into ministry as a profession or not, we are all on the mission field.

Who do you know at work or at the gym that you could invite to church? Invite them! Who lives in your apartment complex that needs to hear about Jesus? Tell them! Time is growing shorter and shorter. Don't be cold! A relationship with God is not just serving in your church, but going out to bring people in. That is the Great Commission. Sharing our faith is not something we pay the pastor to do. It is OUR responsibility. God will hold us accountable.

I Peter 3:15 “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

If we love Jesus and want to serve Him, we cannot keep quiet.