

# GOODNEWS LETTER

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## STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING

**"But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved," Matthew 24:13.**

Viewing the many disastrous events currently going on in the world sounds like Matthew 24, all over again. Just last week, a storm destroyed a large portion of Burma killing over 100,000 people. In China, a thousand is added to the death toll with each sentence I type, it seems.

America has had its disasters, too. Tornados slammed the southern states, killing close to two dozen. And, the fear of earthquakes is at the front of everyone's mind in California. When will the big one hit? Where?

Jesus said disasters are signs, but the end of the world is not yet. Storms might be scary but they don't bring the end of the world. However, they sure get our attention, don't they?

These events should scare us into reality, wake us up and grab our attention. Jesus knew what was ahead for the world and the world needs to turn to the Lord Jesus; not only for eternal security - for salvation, but for security on how to react to what's coming on the earth.

Last year, Lavon and I hosted some Chinese students in our home. After this week's massive earthquake, I wrote to Hui Zhu (Rita) and gave her a web site to learn more about Jesus. She wrote that she and Jenny were fine but that she is bracing for the coming tremors.

The disasters that we have seen in the last few months **ought to put fear in the heart** of everyone. They reveal just how small man is; as the Prophet Jeremiah put perfectly, **"If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, then how can you compete with horses?"** (12:5). If our hope is solely in the world, we are in trouble. If we can't overcome these physical things, what will we do when we face eternity?

And, when it comes to prophesy, even though we might be safe, physically, we are moved by every event. We want to pray, help others and realize that the end is coming. Jesus' words, "seek first the kingdom of God," mean much more to us.

Prophecy does, and ought to, work the heart. Prophecy demands that we make a plan or, suffer the consequences. Thus, Christians continue to plan for the Second Coming, even if weather related catastrophes pass them.

However, when worldly events do affect us, we pull out the double-edged Sword to combat terror. With one edge of the sword, we handle worldly events; such as, tornados and earthquakes. With the other edge, we ward off the world's call to give up.

In God's Word (the sword), we find the strategy that works for all times, including end-times. In His discourse of Matthew 24, Jesus gives us the unfailing plan. He says that **'Endurance is the key.'** The one **enduring** to the end shall be saved, He teaches. But, Jesus is talking about saving *one's life, which is his soul; such as Noah. See 1st Pe. 3:20.*

In these last days, as storm after storm hits us and terrorists killings increase, man has to learn the words of Jahaziel, speaking to all of Judah, "**Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord,**" 2Chron 20:17.

We must understand to stay on the narrow way, avoiding Broadway at all costs. "**See to it that no one misleads you,**" Jesus taught in Matthew 24:5. In other words, Jesus saved us and He will protect us, too. Don't count for some quick fix or government plan.

Jesus, then lists a number of eventful things that will distract the faith of many; which results is a "**falling away**" (V 10) because "**people's love grows cold**" (V 12). (People's love shifts from the gospel of Jesus to fleshly concern.)

Here's the list: **1)** Many will come in my name (**usurping authority**) and mislead many; **2)** (**A false urgency**) over wars and rumors of wars frighten many into error, forsaking the faith; **3)** Nations fighting (**means its coming to us**); **4)** Intensity in famines and earthquakes (**let's store up**); **5)** Increased hatred and death against Christians (**causes denial of faith**); and **6)**, (**Protect yourself from**) lawlessness.

Yet, through it all, Jesus said we must trust Him if we are to endure. We have a commission to fulfill. "**This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come,**" Mt 24:15.

Yes, God is still moving on the face of the world, amid all the troubles. Besides staying where the Lord put you, here's some

### **STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING.**

**1. Get the facts, learn them well.** Jesus is still Head over the church that He sent into all the world. Be of good cheer, He has overcome the world and He will take care of us. Your local pastor is your best friend. Read about Azariah, Meshael and Hananiah being tossed into the fiery furnace for their faith (Daniel 3).

**2. Be prepared.** Pray, study and fellowship with like minded brethren. Stay away from the universal world and its allusions. Live within your means. Stop buying everything and set your affection on things not of this world. "**Lay up treasure for yourselves in heaven**" (Mt 6:20); they will be there and increase in eternal value.

**3. MANAGE YOUR TIME** by cutting down on unnecessary things. If you spend an hour in front of the TV, cut it down, spending more time doing God's will. Read your Bible through each year. Memorize Scripture. Have family prayer.

**4. WORK HARDER AND SMARTER** and appreciation for those in your church should soar. While, you can't save the world, you can have a real impact on your family, your church and your neighbors. Knocked any doors, lately? Missions are important but God placed you where you can work, so be of good use, there. Too many saved folks are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good (or, very little). Pray without ceasing and you won't dare miss another church service. You'll, not only make your pastor happy, your awareness of what's really going on in the world will increase. Soon, you'll put on spiritual glasses every time you look at the world, it ways, and what's happening within it.

**5. FOCUS ON THE HOME FRONT.** Natural Emergencies might require that you have bottled water, batteries and a flashlight, blankets and non-perishable food stored up. There are Spiritual requirements, as well. Stay put, Christ will come and get you where you live. Be aware that when trouble comes, people look for ways out - "**Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There he is,' do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.**" If

doubt arises, pinch yourself. If it hurts, Jesus has not arrived. There's still work to be done, at home.

More disasters are on the way. Only, don't believe what the world offers. Rely on God's Word, alone. It is **Pure** (Ps 19:9), **Restraining** (Ps 119:11), **Perfect** (Ps 19:7), **Sure** (Ps 111:7, 8), **Truth** (Ps 119:142), **Enduring** (Is 40:8), **Effectual** (Is 55:11), **Sanctifying** (Eph 5:26), **Harmonious** (Acts 15:15), **Inspired** (2Pet 1:21), **Living** and **Active** (Heb 4:12).