

GOODNEWS LETTER

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THE END IS NOT YET

"And ye shall hear of wars and **RUMORS OF WARS** see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, **but the end is not yet.**"

We need to listen to Jesus in the Matthew 24:6 discourse, rather than nightly newscasts that are filled with wars and rumors of wars. The stories of actual wars - and, the possibility of others, cover the media scene. Somewhere in the world, there's always trouble brewing.

The biggest news - called '**lead stories**' - present ongoing accounts of warfare. Thus, the headlines on Afghanistan, Iraq or Iran are normally in the first few minutes of each newscast. And, not too long into the coverage, other areas are reported as having a real possibility of warfare.

Such is the case with Israel. But, when this nation is mentioned, our prophetic eyes widen and our expectant ears perk up, every time. We know about Israel's importance in the Bible; that, as Israel goes, so goes the world.

And, Israel makes the news, daily. Someone, somewhere is always calling for this tiny nation to be blown off the map. Better be careful, world! You are dealing with God's people.

Meanwhile, reports on war continue. Lately, Pakistan has marked off their approach against the Taliban, stating, "***We are prepared for a long war.***"

While, we Christians know that Jesus was right about wars during our time, we confess that He was also just as correct about the rumors of war.

Rumors of war is the thought of this weeks GoodNews Letter. That's because rumors seem to effect Christians more than the actual warfare, themselves.

Rumors begin to fly when it comes to world events and warfare. Everyone has an opinion. And, when prophesy mixes in with the nightly news, every Christian becomes a prophet with many opinion.

But here, the Christian needs to understand what a rumor is. Webster defines a "**rumor**" as: '**Talk or opinion widely disseminated with no discernable source.**'

Christians must listen to Jesus, here. He's our source; our only source. His words are prophecy, telling us what the world will do and, what the world will say during these times.

But, Jesus doesn't want us to go beyond what is recorded. That's what the nightly newscasts do. Followers of Jesus must keep it straight and, in order to do this, we must be studious.

As difficult as it is, we have to avoid the sensation of the rumor that the rumor brings to our minds. I think Jesus is saying that we can't get overly excited about the world's condition. To do that, we have to hear the Son of God speaking. And, He clearly says, "**The end is not yet.**"

Now, after consulting with the LORD, we must rest in His teaching. However, with most Christians, I think, getting caught up in the rumors of newscasts and other worldly goings on, is how they view things in life. It's natural.

Rumors become their place of '**waiting things out.**' It may be that, in the rumor area, we find a strong sense of intrigue. Here, we now have something to speculate about.

Proof that men love to speculate; which, is the reason man loves rumors, lies in man's attempt to name the antichrist over the years. Christians seem to have the attitude that says, '***If I could only name the man, then my prophetic life will be complete.***'

But, man hasn't, yet! The antichrist has not been named. Yet, the desire remains in man's heart. Man wants to know so badly that he misses what Jesus, actually said.

While, the antichrist remains a rumor and, therefore, still exciting, that's not so about wars of the world, now. Whatever prophetic intrigue wars had, are lost once news coverage begins to explain the story of a war, any war.

Reporting the facts take away whatever prophetic intrigue that was in the conflicts. Once news coverage begins to open up the stories, rumors are quieted and intrigue is lost. What happens is, facts replace opinion. We don't need to speculate, any longer.

But, unlike real wars, rumors will never lose their popularity in the world; not with Christians, either. Rumors are TV's favorite program. Spreading them is what the media is all about. However, amidst the few facts we get from TV comes a ton of opinions. The rumor mill is like sin, it never stops.

And, its no different when we come to prophecy. Believers also run with what they hear. And, they run with large dose of **rumor-excitement**.

Do we need to ask, "Why?" We're saved, but without carefully considering the words of Jesus, too many believers live for the big "**may be**" that rumors suggests. "**May be's**" thrill us! Especially, if we're close to a particular subject.

Further, "**May be's**" allow us to take a stand; yet, they also allow us to move to another position, without penalty. And, like TV and its newscasts, rumors are merely a **moment-to-moment sensation**. Nobody takes them seriously. Rumors are not made of concrete. Once the truth enters, they crumble and fall apart; without worth. What we thought were pearls are quickly cast away as nothing, at all.

Therefore, to rely upon rumors, alone is dangerous. This is especially true when applied to Scripture and prophecy. Until truth is applied, there remains a complacency about rumors.

Rumors may even cause stagnation to set in a believer's heart, causing us to lose heart. Strong focuses upon any rumor - even Biblical ones - detract us from the remaining words of what's said. They rob us of truths they are real.

Yet, we humans love **Rumors**; which, often cause us to look at the fascination within, rather than the truth, itself.

To state it again: in the final analysis, Rumors don't last. While, for a moment, rumors bring a prophetic "**high**," they are short lived, once the truth is known.

For Christians - Missionary Baptists, et al, rumors may have serious consequences. Their tendency erodes away whatever facts we may know. Thus, Biblical rumors may do damage to the firm foundation that Jesus built. As Rumors take over our hearts, replacing other truths, they steal from the message, as a whole. They will rob us of strong doctrine.

What occurs is that, in all the rumor excitement, doctrine becomes too blasé to be convicting, any longer. Most new teachings have come about in the last 200 years, we remember. So, we must learn to look beyond the rumor.

We conclude that Christians have to stop with rumors. It's just not a good position to be in. When it comes to the future and the "**rumors of war**," we must realize that Jesus want us to focus upon all of His teaching; not, just what's going on in the world scene.

Don't allow rumors to take up the larger part of your Christian day. It won't do any good to be "peeking" around the corner hoping for some special revelation to pop up. Soon, you'll remain in the question mode: Is this the Antichrist? Is he alive? Is it now time to get serious with Jesus?

Jesus instructed us to be aware but, "**be not troubled**." The LORD doesn't want us to cast all our eggs in one basket; especially, if the basket is made of woven opinions.

"**Take heed that no man deceive you**," He states in Matthew 24:4. What we must be focused upon is the message of the **Kingdom**. For, in bold print, Jesus said, "**And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come**" (Mt 24:14).

That's it!!! Now, we can state, "**Rumors, get behind Jesus**." We'll ward off rumor-deception by focusing upon the Kingdom message, only. Now, we can shout from the highest hill, "**Goodbye to the rumor mill of things**." God bless!