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Mal. 4:5 The coming of the great and dreadful 1 Thess 4:16 The Lord himself shall descend 1 Thess 5:4 Ye are not in darkness and that day Luke 23:34 Father, forgive them; they know not Mark 13:19 For in those days shall be affliction

It is *time* to get ready—and *how* to do that is 1 really important. Being prepared is first being rooted in the Word-reading and following the instructions of Jesus every day by the help of His Spirit—being *quick* to listen and *willing* to act.

Very few of over 8 billion people on earth 2 are ready for the return of Christ!

Knowing this, how vital is it for us to be 3 ready for His return? We get ready by allowing God to get us into His will-never thinking we know better.

The *root* of all sin and what Satan has 4 used to deceive the world is-that they can get along in life and restore paradise conditions without God.

All other sins are just by-products of that 5 basic sin-going our own way and turning our back on God.

The world in general has shut God out of 6 their lives-they do not trust Him for anything in this life. They seek peace, pleasure, and prosperity by their own ways and means.

But conditions in the world today prove that 7 the world has *failed* to accomplish any lasting success.

Every imaginable law has been passed, and 8 every plan has been followed—but the result is, conditions are *worse* than ever.

The serious aspect of it is that world 9 conditions will become even worse until the world ends, and the Tribulation begins. It's called "The Time of Jacob's trouble" and the "Day of God's wrath."

10 AV Malachi 4:5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD."

**11** AV 1 Thessalonians 5:2 "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."

**12** The day of the Lord is the Tribulation, and a time of the worst conditions ever in the history of the world. There is no peace; no protection; and no security anywhere on earth. Most people will be in constant fear for their very lives.

**13** Being ready for that Great Day is so vitally important because true believers are under the Blood of Jesus and protected.

**14** AV 1 Thessalonians 5:4 "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."

**15** God allowed the world to try to make a paradise on earth—so the world would realize how they have *failed* to create a *heaven on earth*.

**16** Only God can make our lives what they ought to be-and only He can make conditions on earth what *they* should be.

17 Humans have tried to make an ideal environment on earth for over six thousand years, but all their efforts and government laws have failed.

18 God needs just seven years to restore the Garden of Eden-which He will do during the Millennial reign of Christ on earth.

**19** All who *refuse* to take the Antichrist's Mark of the Beast during the Tribulation, will reign "With Christ a thousand years"

20 AV Revelation 20:4. A new world is coming. and we can be part of it! "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard—the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" AV 1 Corinthians 2:9; Isaiah 64:4.

21 Millions of people have tried in their *own* way and by their own power to make their life what they *think* it should be—but it ends in failure if God is left out.

**22** The cause of trouble in life is the *human* element. Any success achieved in a wrong way justifies the human element-taking us deeper into Adam's sin.

**23** Joseph failed to get out from prison when he tried to be released by his own way through the butler. Depending on this human way hindered God from freeing him the *divine* way.

24 When the spiritual cause was corrected, God was able to work in bringing about his release from prison and restoring him to his rightful position.

25 The worst failure ever of *human* beings is the murdering of God's Son-and they did this while wearing religious clothing.

**26** Nothing could be more hateful, wicked, evil, and malicious than crucifying the Savior of mankind—Nothing!

**27** Yet God turned the worst *human crime* into the greatest divine blessing-using their wicked act to forgive the world—AV Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

**28** The pride and arrogance of people is worse today than ever. People praise each other and seek high positions in business, sports, music, and entertainment.

**29** Millions strive for reputation and try to be stronger, faster, richer, more admired than anyone before them.

**30** It will all end in the most horrible conditions this world has ever seen. There will be devastating plagues, famines, and war—literally bringing everyone to their knees.

**31** AV Mark 13:19 "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be."

**32** God just wants us to admit we *cannot* get along without Him; and we *cannot* find contentment or purpose without Him.

**33** The place of perfect peace and security in this life and the next is *eliminating* all self-plans and *accepting* all divine plans.

**34** Learning to trust God can often begin by having a complete failure of our own plans—it is then that we are ready to trust God and allow Him to show us *His* success plan.

**35** Cornelius was willing to *hear* the Truth and ready to *change* his attitude. WEY Acts 10:33 "All of us are now assembled here in God's presence, to listen to what the Lord has commanded you to say."

**36** Cornelius was ready to *believe* what Jesus did for everyone on the Cross—and it would *change* his life forever.

**37** AV Acts 10:34-36 "God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

**38** Nothing *in us* makes us worthy—it is all what *Jesus did* that makes us worthy.

**39** God is *merciful* and *forgiving* and *ready* to work with us—when we are ready to admit we are helpless of ourselves and only God can accomplish the change we need to be prepared.

**40** How to be ready for the return of Jesus is allowing God full control of our life.

**41** AV **1** Thessalonians **4:14** "If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

**42** He added **15** *"We which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep."* 

**43** The Second Coming is in two parts—the first is the Rapture and the second is Jesus returns to reign on earth for a thousand years.

**44** At the Rapture, Jesus remains in the air with the righteous saints, and the second time He returns to earth.

**45** AV **1** Thessalonians **4:16** "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

**46 17** *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*"

**47** We are all *mortal* until changed to *immortal* by our faith in Jesus and living forever with Him in Paradise.

**48** AV **1** Corinthians 15:44 "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." **4** 

**49** 5 *Adam became a living being—living soul"* Genesis 2:7.

**50** We *need* to be *changed* and our heart *converted* to one that will *believe* and *trust* God in faith.

**51** In our former condition or attitude, we *cannot* enter Heaven. AV **1** Corinthians 15:50 "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."

**52** The Bible doesn't say how we will look most likely similar to the way we do now. The rich man in Hell recognized Abraham and Lazarus in Heaven. They looked enough like the way they did on earth for the rich man to identify them. **53** Not everyone will have to die before Jesus returns, so we *look* for *Him* and we *listen* for the sound of a trumpet.

**54** Jesus will bring with Him those who have passed away in the faith and will also take believers back with Him to Heaven. Enoch and Elijah are examples.

**55** NKJV **1** Corinthians 15:51-52 "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

**56** The actual return of Christ to this earth is *repeated* in many verses—emphasizing the need to be ready—*How will we prepare*?—is the question.

**57** Preparation is only by keeping our *faith* and our *trust* on the Atonement Blood of Jesus—*that* is what *forgives* our sins; *that* is what *heals* our body, *that* is what *provides* our needs; and *that* is what gives *entrance* into Paradise.

**58** AV Matthew 24:30 "Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

**59** Being ready certainly includes being kind to people; extending divine love to all; and showing respect to people the world despises.

**60** Everyone needs to know their *life matters,* and their *salvation* has been purchased. Jesus *is* returning—*It's time to learn How to be Ready!* 

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\*Receive free Tracts email: fcgchurch1@gmail.com Or write to: PO Box 24283 Philadelphia, PA 19120 #3242 25 0629A